



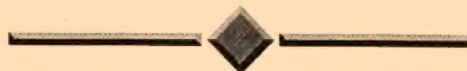
CONCORDIA MULT-FAITH  
CHAPLAINCY  
ANNUAL REPORTS  
1997-2000



MULTI-FAITH CHAPLAINCY IS A UNIT OF *Advocacy & Support Services* STUDENT SERVICES



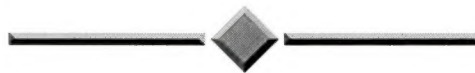
# CAMPUS MINISTRY ANNUAL REPORT 1999-2000



CAMPUS MINISTRY IS A UNIT OF *Advocacy & Support Services* STUDENT SERVICES



# CAMPUS MINISTRY ANNUAL REPORT 1999-2000



CAMPUS MINISTRY IS A UNIT OF *Advocacy & Support Services* **STUDENT SERVICES**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

This past year saw some changes in personnel at Concordia Campus Ministry. In the spring we said goodbye to a longtime colleague, Rev. Matti Terho, who took retirement after twenty-six years in Campus Ministry at Sir George Williams University and Concordia.

In the fall we welcomed Rev. Ellie Hummel to our team. We appreciate the new energy and fresh approaches which she brings. We also welcome the opportunity for more collaboration with several national and local churches as we have begun to operate on a shared funding basis to finance a newly developed Ecumenical Chaplain's position which Ellie fills.

As Concordia celebrated its twenty fifth anniversary, Campus Ministry participated with a Sacred Jazz concert combined with readings from many faith traditions and Sacred Dance by Tibetan nuns.

We continued to develop the Multi-faith network with events in both semesters.

Assisting students in poverty to make it through times of financial crisis as well as providing ongoing support through weekly meals has also been an important focus.

Our annual report is in a format this year which presents our mission statement and goals, and reflects on our activities and initiatives within that framework.

## **CAMPUS MINISTRY within the context of its MISSION STATEMENT**

### **Mission Statement:**

*Campus Ministry at Concordia exists within the academic community to nurture faith, spirituality and social responsibility, and to provide a pastoral presence, especially for students.*

The programmes, special events and services offered through Campus Ministry each year flow directly out of our Mission Statement and the departments overall goals, which form an integral part of that mission.

In reflecting on the 1999-2000 year the chaplains have identified the various ways in which we have consciously worked within our stated goals. Many of our activities relate to more than one of these goals.

### **Mission Statement Goal #1:**

*We foster the personal growth of students in the areas of faith and spirituality, moral and ethical questions, human values and social issues. We create and foster experiences of community within the University, and through community and a personal caring presence seek to humanize the University environment.*

The chaplains fulfill this goal in a multitude of ways. We see this as one of the key elements of our ministry. Much of what we do either directly serves the goal of building community, or does so indirectly. Groups of students come together around various

interests, concerns or needs and in this way build small communities, which aid them in their personal and spiritual growth, and often help them achieve their academic goals through the support, guidance and experience they receive.

The Peer Support Program and Mother Hubbard's Cupboard are large expressions of this. Additional expressions are many of our other programmes and events: the Prison Visits group "Building Bridges", the Oka Retreat and the "Jubilee" Twilight Retreats, the Faith and Ecology group and the Lunch Bunch, meditation groups, Book Discussion groups and semester long workshops such as "Holistic Spirituality for the New Millennium", "Learning the Art of Focusing and others.

Central to this goal is the intent and purpose of our programmes and services: "[to] foster the personal growth of students in the areas of faith and spirituality, moral and ethical questions, human values and social issues". All of the above, as well as others of our offerings, have this objective.

The individual counseling, spiritual direction and pastoral guidance all of the chaplains offer to students, either in formal or informal settings, constitutes a significant contribution to the development and growth of these students. It can also be critical to their emotional and physical well-being, and thus their ability to continue at university and achieve their goals. The Outreach Experience gives individual students an opportunity to grow through active engagement in social issues, as does the "Building Bridges" Prison Visits programme.

## **Mission Statement Goal #2**

*We endeavor to make explicit the presence and holiness of God within the University community. In this we provide opportunities for students and other members of the University community to explore, express, and act upon their own spiritual convictions. We do this in a spirit of respect for all authentic religious traditions, and we endeavor to foster inter-faith collaboration on campus.*

This is the area of our work in which we explicitly facilitate the engagement of students in exploring their religious traditions and spiritual convictions. University aged students are at a stage in their development as adults in which they are asking questions and exploring avenues which pertain to their spiritual development. A variety of groups and services exist to meet these needs. Buddhist meditation groups, and a Christian meditation group meet weekly. A Dharma study group helps those interested explore Buddhism more deeply. Our annual Oka Retreat provides an in-depth experience of monastic life, as well as an opportunity for students to intensely reflect on their spiritual journeys. Several of the workshops mentioned above have, as their primary objective, an exploration of religious and spiritual concerns aimed at developing the faith lives of their participants. Our Sacred Jazz special event made the connection between art and religious experience using the music of Duke Ellington as its vehicle. The pastoral counseling and spiritual direction mentioned above are, of course, fundamental, one-on-one, expressions



of this goal. To this can be added marriage preparation for student, staff and faculty couples.

This second goal of ours is also the context in which we provide religious services to the University community. There are times of joy and grief within the life of our community which require a religious or spiritual response. Campus Ministry is able to provide leadership in bringing our community together in this way. Campus Ministry provides the pastoral component for the University's response to the death of a community member, particularly students, but also staff, faculty and others.

Baptisms, marriages and funerals are a regular part of the life of our community, and an integral part of the services we offer at the Loyola Chapel, and elsewhere on campus as needed. Each year several memorial services are organized and led by the chaplaincy team to mark the passing of members of our community, whether they be students, staff, faculty, retirees or alumnae, or indeed external members of our community. Among these during 1999-2000 was the memorial service for Mr. Reginald Groome, Chair of Concordia's Board of Governors.

The Loyola Chapel is home to the Loyola Chapel Community, a Catholic worshipping community with regular weekday and Sunday services. This community is comprised of students, staff, faculty, alumnae and neighbors and has proven over the years to be an invaluable part of the tradition of the Loyola Campus. A separate section on the Loyola Chapel follows.

Another important tradition is the chaplaincy presence at Spring and Fall convocations. This year the chaplains gave invocations and benedictions at five Spring convocations and one Fall convocation. We have extended this type of involvement in recent years with a Multi-faith Convocation Service which brings graduating students and their families together to celebrate the completion of their degrees in a way that honours the diversity of Concordia.

Our Multi-faith Network is a concrete expression of our desire to foster inter-faith dialogue and understanding at Concordia, as well as our desire to ensure that students of all major religious and spiritual traditions can find the resources they need to explore and grow in their traditions. The Network is made up of leaders of many different religious traditions who volunteer their time to cooperate in our work and provide spiritual leadership to students of their traditions. Two events brought this group together during 1999-2000. The first was the above-mentioned Multi-faith Convocation Service held in June 1999. Several members of the Network helped us plan and lead this service. During the academic year the group gathered a second time, along with students from many different religious faiths, to explore the issue of what we mean when we want to engage in multi-faith dialogue. Dr. Jack Lightstone, Provost and Vice-Rector Academic, as well as professor in the Department of Religious Studies led this session.

### **Mission Statement Goal #3**

*We collaborate with other units within Advocacy and Support Services, other Student Services departments, and the academic sector of the University. In this we contribute to the building of bridges within the University community, to the support of students in their academic endeavors, as well as in their human development, and assist in the fulfillment of the University's mission.*

Campus Ministry is an integral part of Concordia University and sees its mission within the larger context of the University's mission. Our role is to support students in ways which foster their intellectual and spiritual growth. We support students experiencing financial difficulty through our Student Emergency Food Fund and Mother Hubbard's Cupboard, and we support students experiencing personal crises with our ongoing pastoral presence. In these activities we assist the University in its mission by supporting students who might otherwise drop out of school.

Our primary internal relationship is within Advocacy and Support Services and the larger Student Services. As a branch of Student Services we are active participants in a number of committees such as the In-course Bursary Committee, as well as the committee which coordinates the University's response to the death of a student.

Many of our projects bring us into contact with a variety of University departments and personnel. We strive to cooperate with the academic sector in our programming as much as possible. The Peer Support Program extensively uses faculty and professional staff support in its orientation process. Our Multi-faith Network includes a number of faculty members representing different religious traditions, we have benefited from their expertise and participation in a variety of ways.

Many students have also benefited academically from our programmes through their participation. Students use the "Building Bridges" Prison Visit programme and Peer Support, to name only two, as springboards to making significant career choices, and gaining relevant exposure and expertise in those career paths.

### **Mission Statement Goal #4:**

*We establish and maintain links with churches, and other religious bodies and institutions, with community organizations, other educational institutions, and external bodies. In this we seek to work in relationship with the external community to better serve the University and society-at-large.*

Finally, we have deliberately articulated this goal because we recognize the importance of our external contacts and relationships, both to the success of our work within Campus Ministry, as well as our responsibility to share our skills and knowledge with the wider community in which the University exists. We participate nationally in the Canadian Association of Campus Chaplains (our national ecumenical professional body), the National Catholic Campus Ministry Association, as well as the bodies bringing together



ecumenical chaplains representing the Anglican, United, Presbyterian and Lutheran denominations. The Multi-faith network has given us a very concrete outreach in Montreal to many different religions and churches.

The following are some of our individual external involvements, contacts and relationships, both formal and informal.

Daryl Lynn Ross, coordinator: Council member, Concordia University Professional Employees Union; attended, and presented two workshops, at Phoenix Rising in Vancouver, the first International Inter-faith University Chaplains Conference; presented introduction to meditation to teachers at Jerome Le-Royer high school.

Peter Côté: member, National Catholic Campus Ministry Advisory Board; member, Steering Committee for Strategic Planning of Catholic Community Services of Montreal, Inc.; President, Concordia University Professional Employees Union; attended Phoenix Rising in Vancouver and the Call to Action Conference in Milwaukee.

Ellie Hummel: member, United Church Presbytery, Presbyterian Outreach; Field placement supervisor for United Theological College. Attended Phoenix Rising in Vancouver.

David Eley, SJ: Board member, Adult Religious Education Office for the Catholic Archdiocese of Montreal and Catholic Community Services of Montreal, Inc. Taught a half semester course at the Gregorian University, Rome.

Matti Terho: member, Christian-Jewish Dialogue of Montreal and Lutheran Council of Montreal. Matti retired during the course of the year.

Michelina Bertone, SSA: member, Montreal Archdiocesan Vocation Awareness Committee, Interprovincial Vocation/Formation Teams, Centre for Italian Women, Provincial Leadership Team (SSA). Speaker on Italian radio station, "Radio Maria". Attended Phoenix Rising in Vancouver.

Bernard Glover, secretary: regular ongoing relations with the Roman Catholic Chancery Office and various local churches; contacts with other Campus Ministry users, such as A.A. and Al-Anon; member, Board of Directors, Meditatio; Production Editor, and Business Manager for Monastic Studies: research/publication projects with Pamela Bright and Charles Kannengiesser of Theological Studies.

## **THE PEER SUPPORT PROGRAM**

1999-2000 was the tenth year of operation for the Peer Support Program. Although the drop-in centre ran on slightly reduced hours, in general the usage of the centre increased from over the previous year. The hours of the centre were reduced because the group of

Peers was smaller than usual, due to several last-minute withdrawals right before training began. Every student who entered the training completed the entire year's commitment.

The initial training at the beginning of the fall semester is over forty-five hours, with ongoing meetings every second Friday for discussion, feedback and additional training sessions. The faculty member who has been providing the helping skills training for the last five years cancelled during the summer because she had to prepare for a new job. Another Concordia faculty member, Shirley Walker, kindly filled in. Shirley has continued to provide the training in the 2000-2001 year.

The Centre was open on Monday to Thursday, from 12:00 to 5:00 p.m. During the exam period the Centre was open once or twice a week, depending upon the availability of the Peer Helpers. A campus outreach table to provide information and referrals is booked through the Dean of Students Office, and is situated in the lobby of the Hall Building. These were scheduled once a week, for four or five hours, depending on the availability of the tables and of Peer Helpers to staff them on those days.

### **Outreaches and projects**

Peer Connections: In cooperation with The Coordinator for New Student Programs, an effort was made to contact new students by phone in order to find out if there were problems, and help find solutions. About four hundred-fifty students were phoned.

Peer Mentoring for Learning Disabled Students: This project was quite unsuccessful due to low utilization by LD students. At the end of the year the decision was made to discontinue the outreach because LD students seem to prefer to receive these services through the mainstream providers.

Gay and Bisexual Men's Discussion Group: This group was not offered this past year as there was no qualified Peer to facilitate it.

Mother Hubbard's Cupboard: Three Peers were involved in this very successful project.

### **THE STUDENT EMERGENCY FOOD FUND**

The *Student Emergency Food Fund (SEFF)* is a program that deals with the problem of student poverty at the most basic level: food. It is not designed to be a long-term support assistance program, but rather to address those times when a student finds him or herself without the money to buy even the barest alimentary necessities. Vouchers are purchased from the Provigo/Maxi/Loblaws chain which students can redeem at any of their stores for food.

The program is supported through donations from members of the Concordia community, faculty, staff, alumni, and students. The annual fundraising drive by Campus Ministry takes place during the months of November and December, but fundraising from other sources and individual and organizational donations continue year-round.

This year, thanks to a few larger donations we have been able to meet a sharp increase in need. As can be seen below (Appendix A) the number of visits rose again in 1999-2000 by 25%. (also 7.6% over 1997-98). The disbursement of funds however rose by 32%. This reflects the increase in the need of the average student coming in for vouchers. We are continuing to see a rise in single parents and less advantaged students who see education as the necessary step to gaining their independence and leading productive lives. Many of those who come to Campus Ministry are struggling to get through with little or no resources.

In the 1999-2000 year, a generous internal grant has allowed us to have a small balance in the fund as we head into the 2000-01 fundraising campaign. This is however a transient situation. Looking ahead we cannot count on a repeat of this grant.

We continue to look for new ways of increasing the SEFF funding. We are continuing the efforts begun previously to increase awareness of the need among the alum and retired staff and faculty. Efforts to have the SEFF added to the Annual Giving form are ongoing, but the procedures are taking time.

## **THE LOYOLA CHAPEL**

This past year has been an active one at the Loyola Chapel. Each year the Chapel marks significant events in the lives of members of the Concordia community and in the life of the University itself.

In 1999-2000 twenty-one couples from the University celebrated their marriage in the Loyola Chapel, both Roman Catholic and non-Catholic. Many weddings in the Chapel are multi-faith in nature, reflecting the wide range of faiths that make up the University community. Of special note was the wedding of Campus Ministry Coordinator Daryl Ross and Richard Shoemaker in April of this year.

Twenty-nine baptisms were recorded in the registers of the Chapel last year and three non-Catholic christenings were also celebrated.

There were six funerals celebrated in 1999-2000, including that of George Langan, and broadcaster and alumnus Mark Rennie. Many memorial services were also conducted by the chaplains for members of staff, faculty and students from various faculties. Some of these were held in the Chapel. Among these was the University's memorial for Reginald Groome, Chair of the Board of Governors.

The Chapel also experienced a change in staff as Magda Jass left her sacristan's position to take the post of Head of Pastoral Services for Grace Dart & Montreal Extended Care Hospitals. The new sacristan is Alexandra Reizes, who takes up the challenge of maintaining the Chapel as a place of peace and prayer for the University community.



A number of students regularly use the Chapel as a quiet space for prayer and meditation. As well, the regular Sunday community continues to thrive and offer significant support (spiritual and financial) to the liturgical life of the Chapel. Attendance at Sunday Eucharist holds steady at 75-150, with holiday attendance as high as 250 or more. The Chapel community is well known in the Archdiocese and regularly draws visitors and regular attendees from around the city. It is known for its innovative liturgies.

The Loyola Chapel was also the venue for a special liturgy/concert to bless the University's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The evening entitled *Sacred Jazz* featured jazz works by Duke Ellington and others written on sacred themes, with prayers and readings interspersed. Associate Professors Charles Ellison and Andrew Homzy of the Music Department collaborated with us on the event. There were also a number of smaller concerts by students and volunteers. Some were in preparation for final course presentations, others were preparations for auditions or to raise funds for various causes. The Chapel has also served as a rehearsal place for the University choir when circumstances necessitated their giving up their rehearsal time in the Oscar Peterson Hall.

Each spring for three years now, the Chapel has been the venue for a Multi-faith Convocation Service, which involves members of Campus Ministry's *Multi-faith Network* who lead prayers, and offer readings, sacred music and dance to celebrate with the Concordia community.

The Chapel underwent some needed repairs to the plaster in the West Sacristy and Prayer Room in 1999-2000. New rugs were also laid in the Chapel, and the broken floor in the room used for children's gatherings was replaced. As welcome as these repairs were, there is still work that needs to be done. Estimates have been sought on the needed repair of the stained glass windows and renewal of the lighting system. Work that still needs to be done includes the repair and restoration of the woodwork and the pews, as well as refinishing or replacement of the parquet floor. The Chapel needs repainting as it has been at least two decades since it was last done. We are also examining the possibility of improving the sound system. The Loyola Chapel Community recently installed a humidifier/de-humidifier onto the piano.

This sacred space is a precious resource of Concordia University, and the chaplains feel privileged to be entrusted with its care. We also appreciated the stewardship shown by Advocacy and Support Services in providing the resources for the badly-needed repairs.

## **SUMMARY OF CAMPUS MINISTRY PROGRAMMES AND EVENTS 1999-2000**

Following each listing the name of the chaplain or chaplains responsible is given, followed by the number of times or frequency the programme or event was offered during 1999-2000 and the average attendance per session. Unless specified otherwise, the programme was offered both semesters.

**Ongoing Programmes/Events:**

“Building Bridges” Prison Visit Programme (Peter Côté) weekly/12  
Mindfulness Meditation Groups (Daryl Ross) 2 weekly/6  
Christian Meditation Group (Magda Jass, volunteer) weekly/3  
Outreach Experience (Michelina Bertone) individual weekly commitment plus 2 group meetings/20  
Book Discussion Group (David Eley) 6 weekly meetings for one semester/8  
Peer Support Group (Daryl Ross) individual weekly volunteer commitments plus biweekly meetings/22  
Mother Hubbard’s Cupboard (Daryl Ross, Ellie Hummel) weekly/50-80  
Oka Monastic Retreat (Peter Côté) one weekend/20

**New Programmes/Events:**

Dharma Study Group (Daryl Ross) - weekly/6  
Faith and Ecology Group (Ellie Hummel) - weekly/2  
Lunch Bunch (Ellie Hummel and Michelina Bertone) - weekly/5  
“Jubilee” Twilight Retreats (Michelina Bertone) - 3/12

**Workshops (Michelina Bertone)**

Bible Study: Guided Meditation on Luke’s Gospel – weekly, fall semester /5  
Holistic Spirituality for the New Millennium –weekly, winter semester/7  
Learning the Art of Focusing –weekly, fall semester/8  
Jesus a Modern Psychologist/Educator - weekly winter semester/5  
Spirituality of Self-Esteem - weekly, winter semester/8

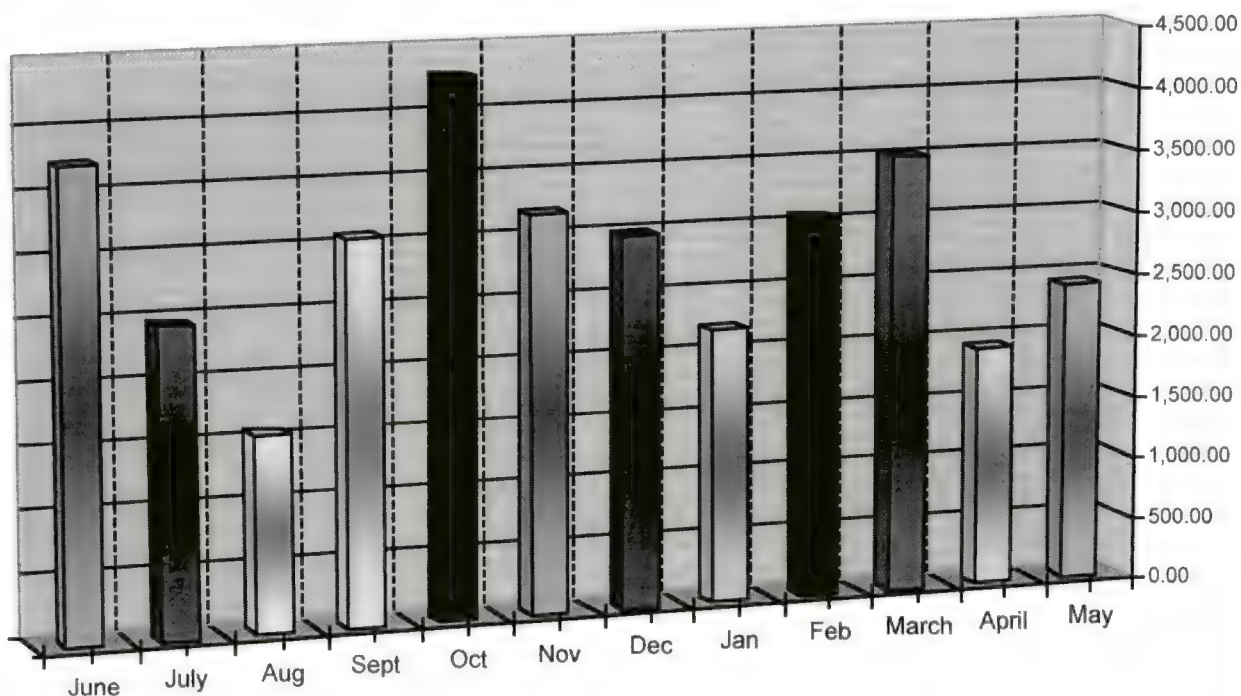
**Special Events:**

Duke Ellington’s Sacred Jazz Concert – 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration – about 150 attended.  
A Presentation of Sacred Dance and Ritual by the Tibetan Buddhist Nuns of *Khachoe Ghakyil* at D.B. Clarke Theatre, about 250 attended. \$1000.00 was raised to help the nuns with their monastery in Nepal.

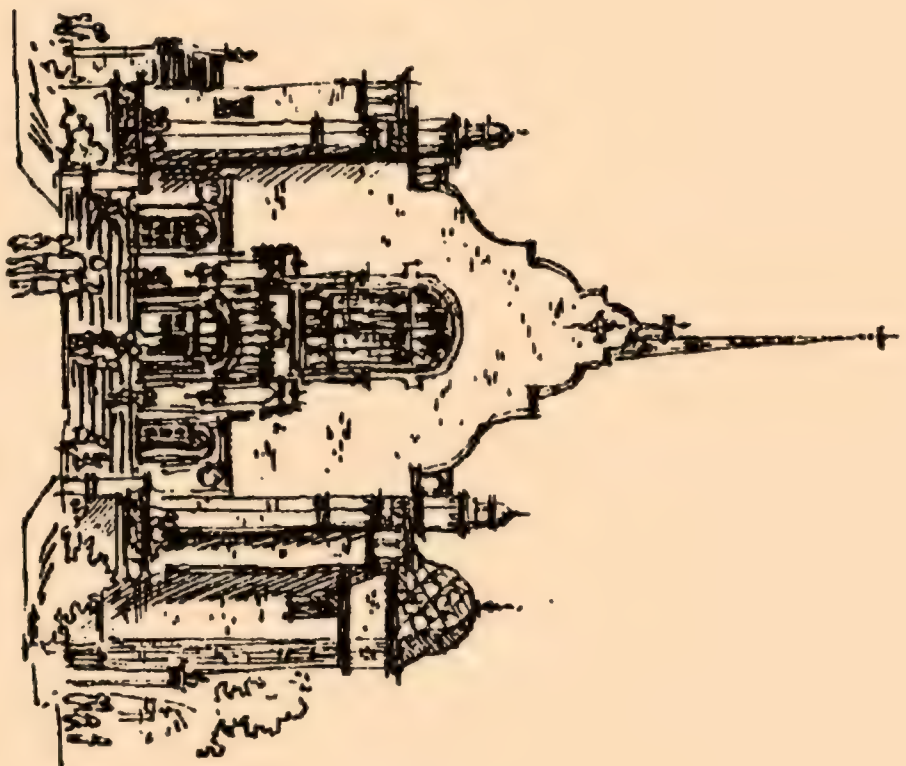
APPENDIX 1  
STUDENT EMERGENCY FOOD FUND  
FOOD VOUCHER DISBURSEMENTS

| <u>MONTH</u>             | <u>AMOUNT</u><br><u>1999-2000</u> | <u>AMOUNT</u><br><u>1998-99</u> | <u>No. Visits</u><br><u>1999-2000</u> | <u>No. Visits</u><br><u>1998-99</u> |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| June                     | 3,725.00                          | 900.00                          | 58                                    | 19                                  |
| July                     | 2,465.00                          | 765.00                          | 36                                    | 17                                  |
| August                   | 1,565.00                          | 1,175.00                        | 25                                    | 21                                  |
| September                | 3,065.00                          | 2,285.00                        | 55                                    | 39                                  |
| October                  | 4,285.00                          | 1,415.00                        | 57                                    | 27                                  |
| November                 | 3,190.00                          | 1,845.00                        | 68                                    | 38                                  |
| December                 | 2,985.00                          | 3,620.00                        | 45                                    | 59                                  |
| January                  | 2,205.00                          | 2,065.00                        | 47                                    | 40                                  |
| February                 | 3,060.00                          | 2,660.00                        | 56                                    | 48                                  |
| March                    | 3,515.00                          | 4,410.00                        | 62                                    | 79                                  |
| April                    | 1,935.00                          | 2,850.00                        | 32                                    | 46                                  |
| May                      | 2,415.00                          | 1,960.00                        | 39                                    | 30                                  |
| <b>Total Vouchers</b>    | <b><u>\$34,410.00</u></b>         | <b><u>\$25,950.00</u></b>       |                                       |                                     |
| <i>Total visits</i>      |                                   |                                 | <u>580</u>                            | <u>463</u>                          |
| <b>Average per visit</b> | <b>\$59.32</b>                    | <b>\$56.05</b>                  |                                       |                                     |

SEFF DISBURSEMENTS JUNE 1, 1999 TO MAY 31, 2000









# CAMPUS MINISTRY ANNUAL REPORT 1998-99



CAMPUS MINISTRY IS A UNIT OF *Advocacy & Support Services* STUDENT SERVICES

## ANNUAL REPORT 1998-99

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## **ANNUAL REPORT 1998-99**

### INTRODUCTION

This past year Campus Ministry has had a senior member retire, as have many areas in Concordia University, and we have had to respond to that reality. The need to replace Rev. Matti Terho has led us to develop joint funding of a new Ecumenical Chaplain's position, and hence to new relationships with several Christian churches on the national and local level. The fundraising and search has resulted in the hiring of a United Church minister. Although saying good-bye to a longtime colleague was a sad event, we are quite excited about our new links with these churches and enthusiastically welcome our new Chaplain, Rev. Ellie Hummel.

Another area of ongoing and significant focus for us in Campus Ministry has been the concern of student poverty. Requests by students for assistance from our Student Emergency Food Fund continues to be high, and the need for replenishment of the fund is ongoing.

We continued to develop the Multi-faith network, both in its vision and in the contacts we have with external religious leaders.

On the whole, this was a year of continued development, responding to change, building on existing programs and developing some new ones.

### GOALS

#### **Our goals for the 1998-99 year were:**

- a) To re-establish the position which had been closed with Matti Terho's retirement, with a new funding base.
- b) To build on past work in the area of multi-faith ministry, and develop our network of religious leaders and teachers from a variety of traditions;
- c) To continue and further develop work we are doing to alleviate the problem of student poverty;
- d) To increase the name recognition, visibility and outreach of Campus Ministry;
- e) To continue making our office environments more welcoming, especially at SGW, Annex Z, and to continue maximizing the use of both campuses,
- f) To increase student involvement in all aspects of Campus Ministry, including revitalizing the Chapel Community.

RESOURCES**Staff**

As was mentioned, one of our senior Chaplains retired at the end of March. Until that time, Campus Ministry had three full-time Chaplains staffing offices on the Loyola and Sir George Williams campuses. In addition, we have two part-time Chaplains, one who is hired on a shared funding arrangement between Concordia University and the Montreal Catholic Archdiocese, and another whose salary is paid by the Pillars Trust Fund of the Montreal Catholic Archdiocese. We are a team of women and men, lay and ordained, Catholic and Protestant, working in a multi-faith manner. All Chaplains take appointments at both campuses.

Full-time Chaplains

Rev. Matti Terho ( now retired)

Mr. Peter Côté

Ms. Daryl Lynn Ross (Coordinator)

Rev. Ellie Hummel (will begin October 1, 1999).

Part-time Chaplains

David Eley, S.J. (Loyola)

Michelina Bertone , S.S.A. (SGW)

Support staff are essential for maintaining student-friendly spaces as well as for publicizing and carrying out programs and services. Bernard Glover, as full-time secretary, has responsibilities including document production and processing, communications, desktop publishing, media interface and computer maintenance and repair. Magda Jass, the Chapel Supervisor is involved in overseeing the use of the Loyola Chapel for regular Campus Ministry services as well as for use by other persons and groups.

## PHYSICAL RESOURCES

**Annex Z - Sir George Williams Campus:** This is a heavily used office space, for appointments, drop-ins, programs and special events. As we have no support staff downtown, if a Chaplain is involved in work out of the office, or in speaking with a student in an office, it has been sometimes difficult to deal with unscheduled visits from students. There are a considerable number of drop-ins, and therefore we have made efforts to solve this problem. A student has been hired to do reception and light office work on a part-time basis. This has been a great help, and will be tremendously helpful next year as well, with a new professional staff member beginning work. In addition, careful coordination of schedules, the scheduling of all full-time Chaplains for office hours at Annex Z, the prioritizing of providing drop-in service, and the presence of Peer Helpers in the lower level office have all helped to address this concern.

There is an office between the front office and lounge (Z-103), which is used by Daryl Ross along with other Chaplains when they are working at SGW. The air quality in that room has been a problem during use for private and group meetings, because when the door is closed the air becomes very warm and stale. We have been in touch with Environmental Health and Safety, and await further action.

The gathering space in the lounge at Annex Z, although not very large, can comfortably seat about twenty people. Behind this lounge is another room, with a sink, refrigerator, cabinets and a large round table and chairs. Having this space available, which many students have said is one of the few “homey” feeling places on campus, has enabled Campus Ministry to offer a wide variety of programs. It is an excellent space to offer meditation, small group discussions and workshops.

Small groups are optimum learning environments, especially for human development learning, as they provide close contact with the leader as well as exchange with peers. Annex Z is one of a small number of places on the downtown campus which has space amenable to such groups. We have quite a few requests from other services and from student associations to make use of this space, and we try to accommodate these requests as much as we can. The lounges were the venue for our very popular Mother Hubbard’s Cupboard, which offered weekly dinners for a small donation. The tables, sink, cupboards and kitchen-type set-up made this program possible.

The lounges are showing the wear of considerable use for student activities. We have requested new rugs and furniture, as well as other renovations. Approval has been given, and we hope that the work will commence soon.

We continue to provide space at Annex Z for the Muslim Students’ Association to have a prayer room.

**Belmore House (Annex WF) - Loyola Campus:** This Annex is the primary work centre for Campus Ministry, because the secretary’s office is located here, as well as offices for three of the four Concordia Chaplains. The Annex has office spaces and a small meeting room on the first floor, and a large lounge including a complete kitchen in the basement.

The Loyola Campus Ministry office has provided an excellent venue for training and ongoing general meetings of the Peer Helper Program. This group of twenty to twenty-five students who provide volunteer service at Concordia meets for over forty-five hours of initial training at the end of the summer and the beginning of the fall semester, and continues with bi-weekly meetings throughout the regular academic year. The Peer Helpers also use the space for meal preparations for Mother Hubbard’s Cupboard dinners, to help enforce strict sanitation standards during food preparation.

The Loyola Campus Ministry office provides an excellent venue for the regular gatherings of the Loyola Chapel community, meetings of the Theological Studies Students’ Association and other student groups, pot-luck suppers, regular meditation, weekly and occasional small group



meetings and other events. The Loyola office also provides supervision and coordination of the use of the Loyola Chapel. Concordia community members who are arranging for an event at the Chapel, such as a wedding, have meetings and bring their paperwork to this office.

We have a considerable number of drop-ins on this campus as well, and when the lounge is not being used for a program, there are students who like to use it as a quiet and comfortable place to study. We have been told by students that the Campus Ministry office on Loyola, as well, is one of the few "homey" feeling spaces on that campus.

Over the past number of years the concentration of students has moved increasingly to the Sir George Williams campus. This has made organizing group programs very difficult at the Loyola Campus, a problem which we have mentioned repeatedly in these reports. We hope that plans for Loyola, including a new college based there, will revitalize that campus.

*Library:* A number of books have been acquired by Campus Ministry over the years. These were added to by a considerable collection from the late Florence Pirella and Mr. Brendan Griffin. Some work has gone into organizing this collection and cataloguing it in a usable way so that the resource will be more available to students and other users. We plan to have a little celebration to inaugurate the library in the fall term.

**The Loyola Chapel:** The Chapel is the gathering place for an active Chapel Community and is a place of many celebrations and ceremonies which mark significant passages in the lives of members of Concordia and of the community as a whole. It is a focal point for alumni, who frequently return to the Loyola Chapel for Sunday masses; some are even part of the regular Chapel community, and many return to the Chapel for weddings, anniversaries, funerals and baptisms. Also, over the past two years the Department of Music has returned to the Chapel. We have been happy to provide the Concordia Chamber Choir and other groups with a place to practice during those times when the concert hall has been unavailable to them.

The Loyola Chapel is a significant place for Concordia University as an entire community; at a time when so many of our long-term faculty and staff are taking retirement or early retirement packages and are leaving active involvement in university life, and it feels as if we are losing the holders of our "institutional memory" it is important to safeguard the meaningful traditions and places which remain.

In addition to being a place which holds many memories for university members, the Chapel is an oasis on campus for quiet, contemplation and stillness. Very frequently, when one of the Chaplains or the Sacristan goes into the Chapel, there are one or more people just sitting quietly in this peaceful, sacred space. The Chapel is accessible through the administration building at all times. It is locked after 11:00 p.m., but will be opened by a security guard upon request.

MULTI-FAITH NETWORK

As the population of Concordia has gradually become more diverse, Campus Ministry has welcomed the challenge and opportunity to serve the variety of religious and spiritual needs of our university community, while also providing opportunities for people to come together to affirm the many common values and interests which we share as people of faith. In February, 1998 we held a meeting which included twenty-two people from the following faith traditions: Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh, Jewish, Moslem, Bahà'i, Native Spirituality, Christian and Unitarian. This past year we have held two more such meetings. At the last meeting it was agreed to invite students from various religious groups at Concordia to an informal gathering, so the resource people could meet with them and learn more about their needs.

We have set up a **multi-faith internet news group** so that we can post a variety of events and activities which might interest students of different religions. We have also produced several updated versions of a **Multi-faith brochure** naming the colleagues in our Multi-faith Network, so that we can effectively refer students who have a particular spiritual or religious need.

We offered our second **Multi-faith Convocation Service**, with the assistance of a number of gracious participants from several traditions. Once again we had readings and meditations from many traditions. The attendance was lower than the first year, and we feel that this might be the result of a different way of inviting graduating students which was arranged by the Registrar's office. It is something to try to improve next year.

Our second **Multi-faith Festival** took place in October of 1998. Included were a panel discussion on sexuality by students from different traditions, expositions, workshops and an "Express your Spirituality" art corner. We made a mistake in timing; the coinciding of the festival with midterms made it difficult to get student participation. This year's event was not as well-attended as the festival in January 1997; however there was a steady stream of participation throughout the day, with very positive feedback.

In the coming year we intend to focus more energies on fostering multi-faith dialogue and collaboration among students from diverse faith traditions, especially working through the channels of the student associations.

We feel that multi-faith work is very significant, and can be an effective approach to promoting tolerance and a uniting, as opposed to a fragmenting vision of humanity. We believe we are accomplishing important and pioneering work in the area of Multi-faith Ministry.

#### PROGRAMS, SERVICES AND EVENTS

It is largely through the variety of offerings outlined below that we reach out to the members of the Concordia University Community to educate, foster personal and spiritual growth, create community, offer support and guidance through life's transitions and provide opportunities to lend a compassionate hand to the needy.

## Workshops and Small Groups

### *Prison Visit Program*

This long-standing outreach program continues to be very popular and beneficial to the student participants. It is one which we consciously maintain at a maximum attendance of 10 to 12 student volunteers each semester. For the 98-99 school year Peter Côté and Matti Terho continued at the Federal Training Centre in cooperation with the Prison Chaplain, David Schantz. Each year this program has a powerful, indeed life-changing impact on some of the students. Students come from all four of the faculties, but representation from within the so-called "helping profession" departments is the strongest, i.e. Sociology, Psychology, and Applied Human Sciences. For these students in particular it becomes an important part of their educational experience, as they make choices about their direction in life.

The past school year was a very successful one for the Prison Visit Program. The group was more or less optimum size and the visitors were conscientious and positive in their approach. The group of inmates attended regularly, and all seemed to enjoy the meetings throughout the program.

With Matti Terho's retirement some changes may be made to the program. A stronger focus on the themes of Restorative Justice and Victim Mediation is being explored, especially in terms of how the student group can apply these principles in the community. For those students who are considering a career in Correctional Services and the helping professions generally, this will be particularly useful. To this end Peter Côté attended workshops during the summer of 1999 in Victim Mediation, Restorative Justice and Alternatives to Violence.

### *Mindfulness Meditation*

Two groups were held regularly by Daryl Ross, the group at Annex Z continuing for its sixth year, the group at Annex WF for a fourth. Both were held during the week, in the daytime. The SGW group fluctuated from about eight to eighteen participants, the group at Loyola was consistently about four or five. A number of participants gave feedback that learning meditation has been very helpful in many aspects of their academic and personal lives. During the winter semester Daryl held a third session, in the VA building, aimed at Fine Arts students. This did not attract enough students to repeat this experimental offering. The idea of bringing meditation into the midst of the community remains an interesting idea, and Daryl may try offering a session once a week in Residence in the coming semester. Also, an evening session will be offered on the Loyola Campus.

### *Outreach Experience (Volunteer/Discernment Program)*

This program, now in its fifth year, is coordinated by Michelina Bertone, SSA. Students seeking to do volunteer work in the community are matched with organizations needing the skills and



energies these students bring. Students offer volunteer service to youth, the poor, the homeless, elderly and sick. Follow-up meetings are scheduled between the coordinator and the student following a set number of weeks of volunteer work. Links are made during these meetings with the student's career goals, and also with his/her ethical and spiritual life. The students meet as a group twice a year to share their experiences with one another and engage in shared ritual (prayer). About twenty students took part this year. next year there will be an attempt to place students in primarily two centres: Chez Doris and Benedict Labre House.

#### *Book Discussion Group - "Christ Before Christianity"*

A group of ten members of the university community, students, staff, administrators and professors met for eleven weeks in the September semester to read and discuss Albert Nolan's Christ before Christianity. The programme was led by David Eley, S.J..

*Book Discussion Group – "Living Buddha, Living Christ;" "The Dhammapada;" "Awakening the Buddha Within;" as well as some short Buddhist sutras*

A group of faculty, staff and students, some continuing from the reading group last year, met all year to read and discuss these texts. Discussion included the Buddhist, Christian and Hindu traditions, and personal experiences. A very high level of exchange provided much food for thought as well as spiritual nourishment, and marked this as a program worthy of repetition.

#### *The New Millennium: Holistic Spirituality and Living in Hope"*

Animated by Michelina Bertone, S.S.A., this group of 5 to 12 participants focused on readings, reflection as well as creative expression through a variety of media.

#### *Bible Study - Scripture Meditation*

Also by Michelina Bertone, S.S.A., about six students participated in this workshop. The participants in this and the previous program have expressed much appreciation for all they have learned and experienced.

### **Events**

#### *Eric O'Connor Event - Jazz Vespers: Towards a New Millennium*

The Jazz Vespers was an evening event provided under the title of the Eric O'Connor Event, an annual event for Campus Ministry. This event combined three elements: a short form of evening prayer; Sacred Jazz, written by Duke Ellington, and performed by Prof.'s Charles Elison and Andrew Homzy and the Concordia Jazz Chamber Players; a slide presentation on Third World debt, focussing on the Philippines, presented by a graduate student, Mario Degilio-Bellemare.

The event concluded with two talks given by the professors about the sacred aspects of music and jazz in particular.

### *Retreat at Oka Monastery*

A group of twenty-four, mostly students with a few faculty and external participants, attended a retreat at Oka Monastery on October 30 to November 1, 1998. This annual event brings a diverse group, spanning the spectrum of the deeply religious to the respectfully curious, to live in close proximity to a cloistered community of contemplative monks. It was an excellent retreat weekend. Chaplains offer instruction in meditation, guided prayer and spiritual counselling to those who are interested.

This event is at its maximum capacity at this level given the facility used and the nature of the event. The retreat was supervised by Peter Côté and Daryl Ross.

### *G.I.F.T. Project, 1999*

This inter-university project run by Sr. Michelina attracted ten students from universities in Montreal and several from Massachusetts. G.I.F.T. stands for God, Inter-dependence, Friendly outreach, Transformation. This was an intensive residential program, including: outreach in service to the poor, the homeless, the elderly and sick; community building; theological reflection.

### *Twilight Retreats*

Sr. Michelina held four evening retreats on the theme "The Cup of My Life." Between ten and eighteen students participated in these gatherings.

## **Services**

### *The Student Emergency Food Fund*

The Student Emergency Food Fund supports the emergency assistance Campus Ministry gives to students in the form of food vouchers. Vouchers (gift certificates) are purchased from Provigo and IGA and given to students in need to buy groceries. It is an extremely elemental form of assistance!

The Fund is supported through annual and periodic fund raising activities amongst Concordia students, staff, faculty and alumni.

As can be seen from the statistics presented below (see appendix) the demand for food vouchers has remained very strong during the 1998-99 year. Although the total number of visits has decreased somewhat as compared to the previous year the total dollar value of vouchers distributed has increased. This is due to the larger amounts given to many students. All the

chaplains have felt it increasingly difficult to give a student in need \$25. or \$30. when they clearly require more simply to survive. As a result the team decided during the year to try to decrease the total number of student visits, yet help those we feel warrant it most with larger amounts which reflect more realistically their need.

We continue to see students who are returning to school with no viable means of support, no plan in place, no guaranteed source of funding, and no expectation that one can be found. In some cases students in mid-program find themselves in this situation after having lost their means of support. These students are struggling to fulfill a dream under the most stressful of circumstances. In many cases they are single parents eager to find a way out of dependency and poverty; or international students with none of the traditional supports or avenues open to them.

As stated last year our normal fund raising activity cannot meet the demand we have experienced these last two years. We are exploring and establishing new sources of fund raising; chief among these is an enhanced effort directed toward alumni and retired staff and faculty, as well as the possibility of including the Student Emergency Food Fund in the Annual Giving Campaign. We will, of course, continue with our Christmas Season Campaign and the various events included in that.

#### *Mother Hubbard's Cupboard*

This program, coordinated by Daryl Ross, implemented through the efforts of Peer Helpers and other student volunteers, serves weekly meals to students at Annex Z for a donation of \$1.00. Costs were subsidized by the Student Emergency Food Fund. The meals were prepared at the Loyola Campus Ministry office by student volunteers, the preparation was supervised and meals were transported by Daryl Ross. About sixty to eighty students were served each week, from mid-September to late April, with the attendance peaking for a few weeks at ninety to one hundred. The meals were vegetarian, and inexpensive to prepare. Students were often given copies of the recipes, so they could learn new skills in preparing nutritious meals on a small budget. The atmosphere at "Mother Hubbard's" is warm and friendly; many of the students who came were from out of province or from other countries, and came to meet people as well as enjoy a meal. The feedback from students who participated continues to be extremely positive; many came because of word-of-mouth publicity which is a sure sign that a program is responding to the real needs of students.

#### *Pastoral Counselling and Spiritual Direction*

Concordia provides an excellent network of services, and therefore students have choices about the means to find guidance and support when they feel a need to seek it. Short-term pastoral counselling and spiritual direction offered by chaplains have helped many students to respond to life choices and emotional issues constructively and with integrity. The chaplains provide spiritual guidance and development to other members of the University community as well. Chaplains also provide many referrals to other university services. The flow of these sessions is



irregular, but generally about four to twelve students are seen by each Chaplain within an average week.

### *Gatherings for celebration, commemoration and worship*

Chaplains were involved in preparing for and presiding at ceremonies such as convocations, weddings, anniversaries, funeral/memorial services. Many people turn to religious leaders when they are looking for meaningful ways to mark significant passages in life. Sacramental celebrations such as weddings and baptisms necessarily involve one of the ordained chaplains. Fifteen Roman Catholic baptisms were celebrated in the Loyola Chapel in 1998-99 and another five of other Christian faiths. Chapel this year. Other gatherings such as memorial services are also led by the lay chaplains.

### *Marriage preparation*

As usual, there have been requests from members of the Concordia community, students and former students, to have their weddings in the Chapel. Many were Catholic, but also many were from other Christian denominations, exercising the ecumenical character of the Chapel. David Eley was the Chaplain most principally occupied with this important event in the lives of the students. There are usually seven to ten meetings to prepare for these occasions. One can observe that the attachment created to the University through this activity is significant and probably life long. Twenty-eight weddings were celebrated in the Loyola Chapel this year and several more were held at various locations off campus. With few exceptions, all marriages witnessed by Concordia Chaplains involve members of the Concordia University Community.

### *Loyola Chapel*

The Loyola Chapel continues to be used for a variety of religious ceremonies and prayers. This has been another full and busy year. There are regular Sunday Catholic services, known throughout the diocese for creativity and openness, and also weekday masses. Occasional services from diverse denominations take place on an ad-hoc basis. Many weddings of members of the Concordia community, and alumni are celebrated there as well as a number of memorial services for the dead. It is also the venue for group meditation, and for a number of prayer gatherings, meetings, public lectures, recitals and concerts. Importantly as well, the Chapel is used by some students as a drop-in for quiet prayer. The Chapel is used principally for events of religious significance for the Concordia community but is also used from time to time for other University occasions.

Services are attended 52 Sundays of the year by 80 to 150 people. The special feasts of Christmas and Holy Week draw considerably larger attendance. Throughout the regular academic year mass is celebrated in the Chapel five days a week, and is attended by from 5 to thirty people. There is variation according to seasonal and liturgical cycles. Throughout the year the



number of people at the occasional activities would be 150 - 300 at a wedding or a memorial service and diverse numbers for other gatherings.

Some important University events are commemorated during the Sunday service such as the Opening Eucharist of the Holy Spirit held on Homecoming weekend in October and the Multi-Faith Convocation Service held in June at the time of the University Convocation. The Homecoming service functions as a welcome to the new students and a welcome back to the classes of alumni who are gathering for their reunions. Last year the class of 1948 gathered in significant number for this event to celebrate the 50 years since their graduation.

Although Campus Ministry stresses the importance of maintaining the Chapel as sacred space, throughout the year it is used by individual students and student groups in response to special needs. Outside groups have also used the Chapel on occasion for musical recording or filming sessions. With rare exceptions the requesting person is usually an alum. Particularly, this year the Chapel had the distinct pleasure of welcoming the choir of the Shaare Zion Congregation who recorded a CD of traditional Jewish sacred music. Their Choir Master and Cantor were most impressed with the acoustics of the Chapel.

All activities in the Chapel are prepared through the services of the Chapel Supervisor, Magda Jass. She sets up, orchestrates during, and rearranges afterwards for all events.

During the year a number of significant repairs and clean ups have been made to the Chapel and the surrounding areas, both externally and internally. Repairs of ice-storm water damages and other problems with dampness in the plaster have been made. Many adjacent rooms and halls have been painted. A new carpet in the Chapel and in one of the side rooms has been installed. Lamps have been cleaned and in some cases changed. All these improvements are very welcome and were needed. Other tasks remain to be done, some major and others minor. The major tasks would involve installing new electrical wiring, painting the plaster walls in the Chapel itself and treatment of the panelling and woodwork. It has been a year of significant improvements.

This year we finalized a project that has been in progress for about eight years,: the building and dedication of a new altar for the Chapel. A fine altar was designed and carved from excellent walnut by Robert Nagy, formerly Chaplain at Concordia for more that twenty-five years. It will be a permanent presence in the Chapel. An extensive and festive ceremony was celebrated for the dedication.

### *Chapel Council*

There is an elected council of about twelve members which takes responsibility for the activities of the Loyola Chapel Community. Three of the Chaplains, Daryl, David and Peter and the Chapel Supervisor are ex officio members. The council organizes a number of community-building activities for the Chapel. The finances of the Chapel and special projects are also the

concern of this body, and they exercise a responsive leadership for the Chapel operations. A series of regular monthly meetings is held for these purposes.

### *Involvement in Orientation and Convocation*

**Orientation:** Chaplains presided at the beginning of each Orientation main session with greetings and a ritual opening. This served to give us a certain amount of exposure to every student attending Orientation, not just a small group in a workshop. It is somewhat similar in nature to our role at Convocation and so highlights that important ceremonial aspect of our work. Over the four days of Orientation we would have had contact with approximately 2000 students.

**Convocation:** The Convocation ceremonies are the central ritual event of the University. The role of the Chaplains in these ceremonies dates back to the beginnings of each of the founding institutions of Concordia. We bless each event at the beginning with an Invocation, and at the end with a Benediction. Our prayers are inclusive and respectful of the variety of religious beliefs present at Concordia. We believe in the importance and value of the spiritual dimension being included at this very significant point in the life of the University. We know that many students appreciate the opening invocation and the blessings given as the ceremony concludes. Each year several students request copies of the prayers which were said at their Convocation because they found it particularly moving and meaningful. In terms of our visibility and stature as a department which is integral to the University, the role we play in the Convocation ceremonies cannot be underestimated. It is one we cherish and want to affirm.

### PUBLICATIONS

We published two volumes of a newsletter which we called "First Word." Distribution was by including them in issues of The Link, through Student Services and other means. We feel the effort and expense of producing a newsletter is time and money well-spent. Many students and staff and faculty were reached, and we received considerable positive feedback, as well as inquiries on topics and programs which we had discussed in the newsletters.

Other publications were: a brochure on the Student Emergency Food Fund, the Multi-faith Network resource list, program flyers and weekly mass sheets.

A survival guide for students living on low incomes is being worked on in collaboration with Health Services, and will be published in the fall.

### THE PEER HELPER PROGRAM

#### **Overview**

This past year was an excellent one for Peer Helpers, in terms of the functioning of the organization, however use of the service declined marginally for a second year. In response to this

we have decided to expand the peer mentoring aspect of the program and offer more practical services such as help in filling out complex application and loan forms. The name has also been changed to The Peer Support Programme.

Every student who entered the training completed the entire year's commitment. This was the Peer Helper Program's ninth year of operation.

### **Training**

A Faculty member provided the majority of the training in helping skills, and various professional staff members animated workshops on topics such as time management, dealing with a crisis, poverty, sexuality and addiction as well as providing information on the resources available to students at Concordia and in the larger community. The initial training at the beginning of the fall semester is over forty-five hours, with ongoing meetings every second Friday for discussion, feedback and additional training sessions.

Each Peer Helper has a mid-year evaluation meeting with the coordinator and one supervisor. This provides a structured opportunity for mutual exchange on the performance of the Peer Helper as well as his/her perceptions of the program. Peer Helpers give anonymous feedback on the performance of the coordinator and supervisors.

### **Coordinating Team**

The Coordinating Team consists of the coordinator and four second-year Peer Helpers, or supervisors. This supervisors this year were very competent and responsible, with one of them returning for a second year in a supervisory role. This was the student who was hired by Campus Ministry to work on the SGW campus, and her knowledge and skills acquired through Peer Helping have been tremendous assets.

The Director of Advocacy and Support Services continues to be a resource, support, and a creative guide in the development of the program. Scheduled meetings, as well as unscheduled conversations serve to provide the Coordinator with very helpful feedback and perspective. Other professional staff from Counselling and Development, Health Services the Centre for Native Education and the International Student Advisors' Office, as well as others, have been consulted during the year to help understand and meet the needs of particular students.

### **Operations**

The Peer Helper Centre is located at 2090 Mackay (Annex Z) room 02. The front window looks almost directly across at the Mackay Street entrance to the Hall Building. We feel this is an ideal location, because of its proximity to the most heavily utilized building, while being very slightly

more private than if it were right on the beaten path. The accessibility of the Campus Ministry professional staff to Peer Helpers, as well as the reception Peer Helpers provide in the building if a Chaplain is not available have been very positive aspects of situating these services together.

The Centre was open on Monday to Thursday, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. During the exam period the Centre is open once or twice a week, depending upon the availability of the Peer Helpers. A campus outreach table to provide information and referrals is booked through the Dean of Students Office, and is situated in the lobby of the Hall Building. These were scheduled once a week, for four or five hours, depending on the availability of the tables and of Peer Helpers to staff them on those days.

### **Outreach Programs**

Peer Connections: In cooperation with The Coordinator for New Student Programs, an effort was made to contact every new student by phone.\*\*\*\*\*

Outreach in the Women's Centre: One Peer Helper performed some of her weekly hours in the Women's Centre this year.

Peer Mentoring for Learning Disabled Students: Four Peer Helpers worked with Services for Disabled Students to provide mentoring to students with learning disabilities.

### *Ongoing Projects*

Gay and Bisexual Men's Discussion Group: This group is in its sixth year,\*\*\*\*

Mother Hubbard's Cupboard: Two Peer Helpers were involved in this project, and, as mentioned in the section on Services in Campus Ministry, this was a very successful year.

### **OTHER CAMPUS MINISTRY ACTIVITIES**

### **Professional Development**

Campus Ministry works within a professional environment, within standards set by the National Association, which groups Campus Ministers from all Canadian Universities by the National Offices of the Churches and inter-church and inter-faith committees, as well as being in close connection with our counterparts in the United States. Further, there are a series of professional organizations with their conventions and regular publications. Concordia chaplains attend some of these meetings every year and make a regular and on-going part of their study and reflection



the integration of the latest concerns, findings and practices into the work of Campus Ministry at Concordia University. Some of the time of our planning days and regular weekly meetings are dedicated to this learning and professional updating.

Throughout the year on a regular basis the whole Campus Ministry staff gathers for full day or half day team meetings. These times are used for a variety of forms of development. Some of the time is spent on evaluation and subsequent planning of activities. Attention is also given to a number of professional issues including articulating objectives and creating a mechanism for determining priorities. This is a necessary part of our work when we can deal with issues and cases that are brought to our attention through various avenues, including the National Association, some of our Church affiliations, and community organizations.

*Search Committee for a new Director of Health Services:* David Eley was invited by the Dean of Students, Dr. Donald Boisvert to participate in the process for the selection of a new director of health Services. The process began in November 1998 and came to a end in May 1999.

#### COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENTS CONFERENCES AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Michelina Bertone SSA: Diocesan Youth Council, the Montreal Association for Vocation Awareness, pastoral counsellor at the Montreal Pastoral Institute.

Peter Côté: Chair, President's Advisory Board of Catholic Community Services, Inc., President, Concordia University Professional Employees Union, hosted Regional Ecumenical Chaplains Conference, attended Canadian Catholic Chaplains Conference in Ottawa.

David Eley: On the board of the Adult Religious Education Office for the Catholic Archdiocese of Montreal, participates in the monthly directors' meetings and on several sub-committees organizing specific events. Attended national Chaplains' Conference in Halifax, Call to Action Conference

Daryl Ross: CUPEU Council member, attended National Catholic Chaplain's Conference in Ottawa,

Matti Terho: Chair of the Christian-Jewish Dialogue in Montreal, secretary of the Lutheran Council in Montreal, member of the Board of Directors for the Canadian-Scandinavian Foundation, volunteer Christian Chaplain for traditional parade of World War II veterans in Cote St.Luc, temporary chair of the Canadian Sauna Society, co-sponsor for the Institute on Judaism at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom, made a formal presentation titled "Jesus & Judaism" at McGill Chaplaincy, participated in a two day project to celebrate the Day to Combat Racism and Prejudice in Washington, DC

## CONCLUSION

The goals which we set for ourselves in the beginning of the year were largely adhered to and fulfilled.

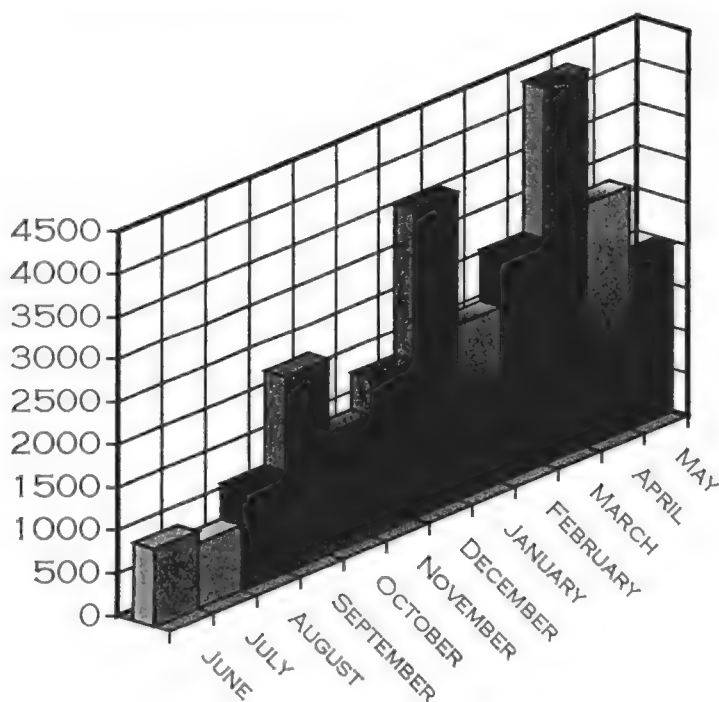
We ended the year with a real sense of satisfaction in the work we have accomplished, with a vision to build on these accomplishments. We also have concerns about coping with change, both within Campus Ministry and in the University as a whole. The changes which the entire University Community has been experiencing continues on, without abate. Some new developments, such as the Revitalization of Loyola, give hope that not all change involves loss.

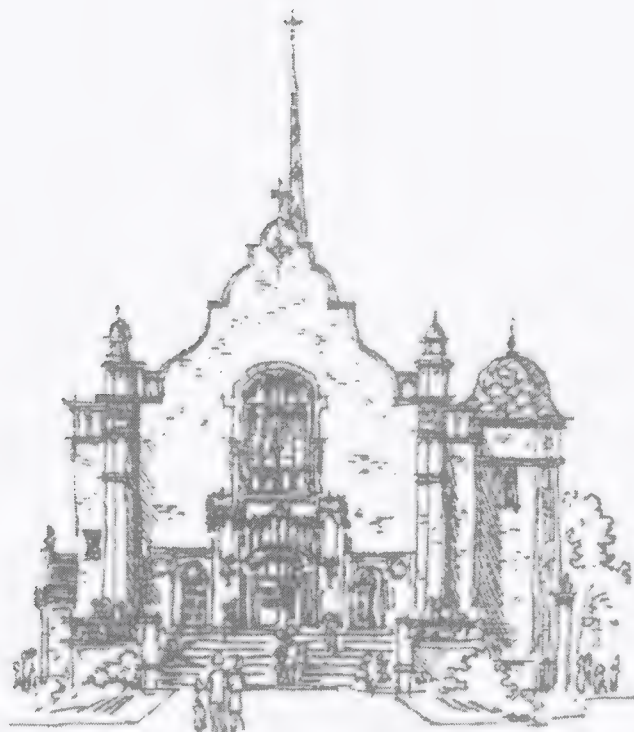
As we affirmed in last year's report, we believe it is essential that we, along with many others, affirm the values and qualities that make Concordia a unique and admirable academic community. The innate worth of each person, learning which is rooted in a sense of wonder and curiosity, openness to the diversity of human experience and expression, support for weaker and more vulnerable members, are all values out of which Concordia University has grown. Campus Ministry will continue to creatively respond to the spiritual and practical needs of community members, and add our vision and voice to those who seek to build Concordia on the best of what it has come from and has become. Within that future, we believe, faith, spirituality and ethical and moral development have an essential role. We look forward to this coming year with hope and enthusiasm.

APPENDIX 1  
STUDENT EMERGENCY FOOD FUND  
FOOD VOUCHER DISBURSEMENTS

| <u>MONTH</u>             | <u>AMOUNT</u><br><u>1997-98</u> | <u>AMOUNT</u><br><u>1998-99</u> | <u>No Visits</u><br><u>1997-98</u> | <u>No Visits</u><br><u>1998-99</u> |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| June                     | 885.00                          | 900.00                          | 15                                 | 19                                 |
| July                     | 720.00                          | 765.00                          | 11                                 | 17                                 |
| August                   | 640.00                          | 1,175.00                        | 17                                 | 21                                 |
| September                | 1,260.00                        | 2,285.00                        | 33                                 | 39                                 |
| October                  | 1,375.00                        | 1,415.00                        | 31                                 | 27                                 |
| November                 | 1,530.00                        | 1,845.00                        | 41                                 | 38                                 |
| December                 | 1,305.00                        | 3,620.00                        | 32                                 | 59                                 |
| January                  | 3,965.00                        | 2,065.00                        | 76                                 | 40                                 |
| February                 | 3,045.00                        | 2,660.00                        | 70                                 | 48                                 |
| March                    | 4,630.00                        | 4,410.00                        | 117                                | 79                                 |
| April                    | 3,180.00                        | 2,850.00                        | 61                                 | 46                                 |
| May                      | 1,290.00                        | 1,960.00                        | 26                                 | 30                                 |
| <b>TOTAL VOUCHERS</b>    | <b><u>23,825.00</u></b>         | <b><u>25,950.00</u></b>         |                                    |                                    |
| <i>Total visits</i>      |                                 |                                 | <u>539</u>                         | <u>463</u>                         |
| <b>Average per visit</b> | <b>44.20</b>                    | <b>56.05</b>                    |                                    |                                    |

STUDENT EMERGENCY FOOD FUND  
DISBURSEMENTS 1998-99





CAMPUS MINISTRY IS A UNIT OF *Advocacy & Support Services* **STUDENT SERVICES**

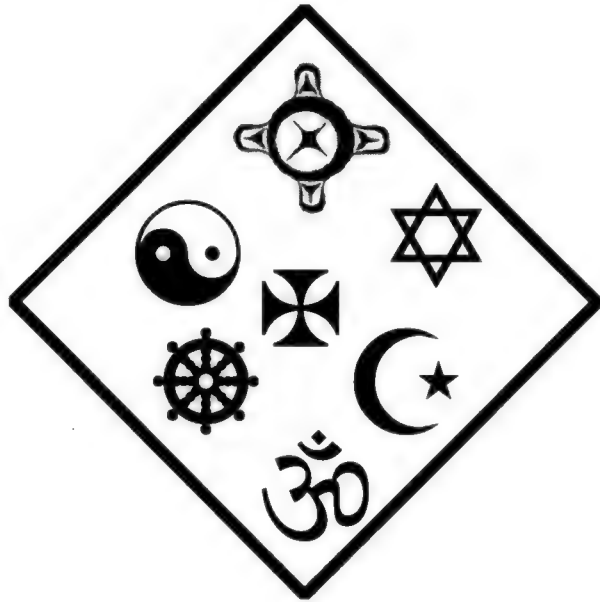




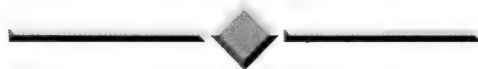
# CAMPUS MINISTRY ANNUAL REPORT 1997-98



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## **ANNUAL REPORT 1997-98**

### INTRODUCTION

A number of “fields” which Campus Ministry has been cultivating for many years bore fruit this year, most especially in the area of creating a truly multi-faith ministry. This has been exciting and rewarding, as we have made new contacts with people of a number of different faith traditions both within the university and in the wider community.

Another area of significant focus for us in Campus Ministry has been the concern of student poverty. On top of the more usual social and personal events which create emergency situations for students, the devastation caused by the January ice storm resulted in severe financial, as well as physical and emotional stress. Along with other student services, we also struggled to respond to the severe hardships which arose from “The Storm of the Century,” and succeeded in helping a large number of students and, in some cases their children, survive this disaster. We participated in providing emergency response to student needs by giving out food vouchers and distributing food provided by the Red Cross. The repercussions of this storm were felt by students through the end of the academic year, and continue to have an impact on our Emergency Food Voucher Fund.

There were some new initiatives as well, such as publishing our newsletter, “First Word.” We produced one fall and one winter issue, and see this as a worthwhile investment of our personal and financial resources. We also began some new small group programs.

On the whole, this was a year of some real achievements, bringing projects to fruition, and good collaboration with other services and groups.

### GOALS

#### **Our goals for the 1997-98 year were:**

- a) To build on past work in the area of multi-faith ministry, and create a network of religious leaders and teachers from a variety of traditions;
- b) To continue and further develop work we are doing to alleviate the problem of student poverty;
- c) To increase the name recognition, visibility and outreach of Campus Ministry;
- d) To create more welcoming office environments, especially at SGW, Annex Z, and to continue maximizing the use of both campuses
- e) To increase student involvement in all aspects of Campus Ministry, including revitalizing the Chapel Community.



RESOURCES**Staff**

Campus Ministry has three full-time Chaplains staffing offices on the Loyola and Sir George Williams campuses. In addition, we have two part-time Chaplains, one who is hired on a shared funding arrangement between Concordia University and the Montreal Catholic Archdiocese, and another whose salary is paid by the Pillars Trust Fund of the Montreal Catholic Archdiocese. We are a team of women and men, lay and ordained, Catholic and Protestant, working in a multi-faith manner. All Chaplains take appointments at both campuses.

Full-time

Rev. Matti Terho

Mr. Peter Côté

Ms. Daryl Lynn Ross (Coordinator)

Part-time

David Eley, S.J. (Loyola)

Sr. Michelina Bertone (SGW)

Matti has accepted the early retirement package which was offered by the university, and will retire at the end of this academic year. He has been with Campus Ministry for twenty-seven years working predominantly on the SGW campus, and he will be sorely missed. Finding ways and means to continue offering as many as possible of the variety of services Matti has provided will be a major concern this coming year.

Support staff are essential for maintaining student-friendly spaces as well as for publicizing and carrying out programs and services. Bernard Glover, as full-time secretary, has responsibilities including document production and processing, communications, desktop publishing, media interface and computer maintenance. Magda Jass, the Chapel Sacristan is involved in overseeing the use of the Loyola Chapel for regular Campus Ministry services as well as for use by other persons and groups.

## PHYSICAL RESOURCES

**Annex Z - Sir George Williams Campus:** This is a heavily used office space, for appointments, drop-ins, programs and special events. As we have no support staff downtown, if a Chaplain is involved in work out of the office, or in speaking with a student in an office, it has been sometimes difficult to deal with unscheduled visits from students. There are a considerable number of drop-ins, and therefore we have made efforts to solve this problem. More careful coordination of schedules, the scheduling of all full-time Chaplains for office hours at Annex Z, the prioritizing of providing drop-in service, the posting of office hours and the presence of Peer Helpers in the lower level office have all been aimed at addressing this concern. In addition, we have decided to hire a student for twelve to fifteen hours each week to provide reception at Annex Z in the coming year. If possible, this student will be one of the Peer Helpers.

The gathering space in the lounge at Annex Z, although not very large, can comfortably seat about twenty people. Behind this lounge is another room, with a sink, refrigerator, cabinets and a large round table and chairs. Having this space available, which many students have said is one of the few “homey” feeling places on campus, has enabled Campus Ministry to offer a wide variety of programs. It is an excellent space to offer small group discussions and workshops. Small groups are optimum learning environments, especially for human development learning, as they provide close contact with the leader as well as exchange with peers. Annex Z is one of a small number of places on the downtown campus which has space amenable to such groups. We have quite a few requests from other services and from student associations to make use of this space, and we try to accommodate these requests as much as we can. The lounges were the venue for our very popular Mother Hubbard’s Cupboard, which offered weekly dinners for a small donation. The tables, sink, cupboards and kitchen-type set-up made this program possible.

We continue to provide space at Annex Z for the Muslim Students’ Association to have a prayer room.

**Belmore House (Annex WF) - Loyola Campus:** This Annex is the primary work centre for Campus Ministry, because the secretary’s office is located here, as well as offices for three of the four Concordia Chaplains. The Annex has office spaces and a small meeting room on the first floor, and a large lounge including a complete kitchen in the basement.

The Loyola Campus Ministry office has provided an excellent venue for training and ongoing general meetings of the Peer Helper Program. This group of about twenty-five students who provide volunteer service at Concordia meets for over forty-five hours of initial training at the end of the summer and the beginning of the fall semester, and continues with bi-weekly meetings throughout the regular academic year. The Peer Helpers also use the space for meal preparations for Mother Hubbard’s Cupboard dinners, to help enforce strict sanitation standards during food preparation.

The Loyola Campus provides an excellent venue for the meals which the Loyola Chapel community hosts for International students, as well as regular gatherings of the Loyola Chapel community, meetings of the Concordia Christian Fellowship and other student associations, pot-luck suppers, regular meditation, weekly and occasional small group meetings and other events. The Loyola Campus Ministry office also provides supervision and coordination of the use of the Loyola Chapel. Concordia community members who are arranging for an event at the Chapel, such as a wedding, have meetings and bring their paperwork to this office.

We have a considerable number of drop-ins on this campus as well, and when the lounge is not being used for a program, there are students who like to use it as a quiet and comfortable place to study. We have been told by students that the Campus Ministry office on Loyola, as well, is one of the few “homey” feeling spaces on that campus.

Over the past number of years the concentration of students has moved increasingly to the Sir George Williams campus. This has made organizing group programs very difficult at the Loyola Campus. We have submitted recommendations to the Task Force for the Revitalization of the

Loyola Campus, and we hope that these, along with others' recommendations, will result in the Loyola Campus returning to a more vibrant state.

**The Loyola Chapel:** The Chapel is the gathering place for an active Chapel Community and is a place of many celebrations and ceremonies which mark significant passages in the lives of members of Concordia and of the community as a whole. It is a focal point for alumni, who frequently return to the Loyola Chapel for Sunday masses; some are even part of the regular Chapel community, and many return to the Chapel for weddings, anniversaries, funerals and baptisms.

The Loyola Chapel is a significant place for Concordia University as an entire community; at a time when so many of our long-term faculty and staff are taking retirement or early retirement packages and are leaving active involvement in university life, and it feels as if we are losing the holders of our "institutional memory" it is important to safeguard the meaningful traditions and places which remain.

In addition to being a place which holds many memories for university members, the Chapel is an oasis on campus for quiet, contemplation and stillness. Very frequently, when one of the Chaplains or the Sacristan goes into the Chapel, there are one or more people just sitting quietly in this peaceful, sacred space. The Chapel is accessible through the administration building at all times. It is locked after 11:00 p.m., but will be opened by a security guard upon request.

Following the ice storm, leaks from the roof have resulted in serious damage being done to the ceilings in the Sacristy and other rooms on the periphery of the Chapel. These are still awaiting repair. Other maintenance work also needs attention, and we hope that sufficient money will be spent to prevent this Loyola Chapel, as well as the other beautiful Loyola buildings, from falling into a state of disrepair.

#### ICE STORM RESPONSE

The impact of the enormous January storm was very hard-hitting. The timing also added to the difficulty; students and faculty had just returned from their holidays when the university had to close for two weeks. Many students had to seek lodging with friends and family or in public shelters, and some lost all their food supplies for the weeks to come.

Consequently, the demand on the food voucher program was simply overwhelming, especially since it was offered by the university as one of the emergency responses to the ice storm. Several days after classes resumed the Canadian Red Cross requested our help (as well as that of the McGill chaplains and the director of the Metropolitan Montreal Student Food Bank) to distribute fresh food to about 100 needy students. Following these activities, the rate of increase in the number of students coming for aid has been greater than ever before. This has put pressure on the staff as well as on the resources of the Emergency Food Voucher Fund itself. (Please refer to the section on Spirit of Christmas Drive/Food Voucher Fund for specifics.)

When a student comes in for food vouchers, the Chaplain who is attending to him or her often spends time discussing other difficulties or stresses in the person's life. In the aftermath of the



ice storm, in addition to the many students who came for food vouchers, a number of students also came in to our offices just to talk about these stresses. At the time, we did not think of counting the hours, because the need was very real and also, in many cases, urgent. In retrospect, the number of hours given by all our staff, as well as the intensity of that effort, was quite taxing.

It is important to remark that the various units of Advocacy and Support Services, and all the departments of Student Services as a whole, pulled together admirably to put the needs and well-being of the students as the top priority in getting through the crisis.

## MULTI-FAITH NETWORK FORMATION

As the population of Concordia has gradually become more diverse, Campus Ministry has welcomed the challenge and opportunity to serve the variety of religious and spiritual needs of our university community, while we also provide opportunities for people to come together to affirm the many common values and interests which we share as people of faith. For many years we have worked collaboratively with an informal network of ministers, rabbis, elders, teachers and leaders from a variety of religious traditions. This year we took important steps to broaden the **Multi-faith Network**, and formalize the links we have. In February we held a meeting (originally scheduled during the ice storm) which included twenty-two people from the following faith traditions: Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh, Jewish, Moslem, Bahà'i, Native Spirituality, Christian and Unitarian. The meeting was an opportunity for all to meet one another, and to discuss the implications of working in a multi-faith manner, as well as approaches for doing so in a way which was comfortable for everyone.

Following this meeting, we set up a **multi-faith internet news group** so that we can post a variety of events and activities which might interest students of different religions. We are also in the process of producing a brochure naming the colleagues in our multi-faith network, so that we can more effectively refer students who have a particular spiritual or religious need.

After many years of recognizing that a **Multi-faith Convocation Service** would be a good and appropriate offering from Campus Ministry, this year we finally pulled it together, with the assistance of a number of gracious participants from several traditions. It was a beautiful, moving ceremony, which included a Native sage purification ceremony, readings and prayers from the Unitarian, Jewish, Islamic, Christian and Bahà'i traditions, a Hindu dancer, meditation with a Buddhist monk, and a shared blessing, followed by a reception. The main area of the Chapel was filled to capacity, primarily with graduating students and family members, as well as a number of faculty and Chapel community.

Future plans include: another **Multi-faith Festival** this autumn; panel discussions on a variety of topics by students from different traditions; greater collaboration among network members to respond to particular needs of students.

These developments are, we feel, very significant, and we believe we are accomplishing important and pioneering work in the area of Multi-faith Ministry.



## PROGRAMS, SERVICES AND EVENTS

It is largely through the variety of offerings outlined below that we reach out to the members of the Concordia University Community to educate, foster personal and spiritual growth, create community, offer support and guidance through life's transitions and provide opportunities to lend a compassionate hand to the needy. We put considerable creativity and loving energy into these programs, services and events, and we believe they are responsive to the expressed needs of students, and other Concordia members.

### **Workshops and Small Groups**

#### *Prison Visit Program*

This long-standing outreach program continues to be very popular and beneficial to the student participants. It is one which we consciously maintain at a maximum attendance of 10 to 12 student volunteers each semester. For the 97-98 school year Peter Côté and Matti Terho have continued at the Federal Training Centre in cooperation with the Prison Chaplain, David Schantz. Each year this program has a powerful, indeed life-changing impact on some of the students. Students come from all four of the faculties, but representation from within the so-called "helping profession" departments is the strongest, i.e. Sociology, Psychology, and Applied Human Sciences. For these students in particular it becomes an important part of their educational experience, as they make choices about their direction in life.

The past school year was a very successful one for the Prison Visit Program. The group was more or less optimum size and the visitors were conscientious and positive in their approach. The group of inmates attended regularly, and all seemed to enjoy the meetings throughout the program.

#### *Mindfulness Meditation*

Two groups were held regularly by Daryl Ross, the group at Annex Z continuing for its fifth year, the group at Annex WF for a third. Both were held during the week, in the daytime. The SGW group fluctuated from about eight to twenty participants, the group at Loyola was consistently about four or five. A number of participants gave feedback that learning meditation has been very helpful in many aspects of their academic and personal lives.

Daryl is looking into the possibility of making the group at SGW more accessible to staff and faculty, by finding a larger and more centralized venue. A number of staff persons participated regularly in the program last year and expressed much appreciation for this opportunity to bring spirituality into the workplace.

#### *Outreach Experience (Volunteer/Discernment Program)*

This program, now in its fourth year, is coordinated by Michelina Bertone, SSA. Students seeking to do volunteer work in the community are matched with organizations needing the skills

and energies these students bring. Every effort is made to find a placement which will be suitable to the student in terms of his/her interests and availability. Follow-up meetings are scheduled between the coordinator and the student following a set number of weeks of volunteer work. Links are made during these meetings with the student's career goals, and also with his/her ethical and spiritual life. The students meet as a group twice a year to share their experiences with one another and engage in shared ritual (prayer). About forty students have participated each year previously, but only about twenty took part this year. It seems necessary to begin the publicity for this program earlier than we did this past year.

### *Bible Reading Group*

A small group of people met on Wednesday afternoons during both semesters to read and study the Bible. David Eley led this group, and they proceeded with one chapter of the Gospel according to St. Mark per week. His evaluation was that the exchange was of a high quality but the small number of participants leads us to question the publicity for and finally, the time efficiency of this activity.

### *Book Discussion Group – “The Good Heart”*

This new initiative, facilitated by Daryl Ross, brought together faculty and students to reflect on a text by the Dalai Lama, “The Good Heart: A Buddhist Perspective on the Teachings of Jesus. Discussion included the Buddhist and Christian traditions, and personal experiences. A very high level of exchange provided much food for thought as well as spiritual nourishment, and marked this as a program worthy of repetition. Several members of the groups have continued to meet through the summer, viewing and discussing videotaped lectures by the Dalai Lama. The group will continue on the theme of Buddhist Christian dialogue.

### *Focusing Workshop*

This series of workshops, facilitated by Michelina Bertone SSA, taught the approximately fifteen participants how to “listen” to their bodies. Focusing is a particular technique which helps the practitioner to work through issues which may be hindering his/her relationships or personal development. It also enables one to stay more self-attuned. It is a spiritual practice which does not have a particular doctrine, other than the essential one of valuing and caring for oneself.

### *The Eight Stages of Life of Erik Erikson*

In these workshops the work of Erikson in stages of human and spiritual development was explored by a group of about ten students, making applications to their own personal, moral and spiritual lives.

## Events

### *Eric O'Connor Event – “Gay and Lesbian Spirituality and the Christian Churches”*

The Eric O'Connor event was held in March this year, a bit later than it is usually, to accommodate the delays created by the ice storm. The gathering dealt with issues of Gay and Lesbian Spirituality and the Christian Churches. The event offered a varied program of film screenings, dramatic readings, a public lecture, a panel discussion and public participation. The evaluations were very positive and there were several suggestions that we should have other events along the same line. We believe this topic is of interest to many students as well as the wider community. Our only disappointment with the event was that of the 60 - 75 people in attendance, there were perhaps a dozen students.

### *Retreat at Oka Monastery*

A group of twenty-two, mostly students with a few faculty and external participants, attended a retreat at Oka Monastery on February 20-22. This annual event brings a diverse group, spanning the spectrum of those with a developed religious life to the respectfully curious, to live in close proximity to a cloistered community of contemplative monks. It was an excellent retreat weekend, and we were gratified that there was strong interest in the retreat - more, in fact, than we were able to accommodate. We will try to create more space in this coming year.

## Services

### *Spirit of Christmas Drive/ Emergency Food Voucher Program*

The most significant factor to impact on the Emergency Food Voucher program during 1997-98 was the ice storm which hit our region beginning on January 5. Although the University was effectively closed for almost two weeks we distributed \$3,965. in vouchers during January, with 76 student visits, almost all coming on and after Jan. 19 when classes resumed.

January marked the beginning of a tremendous increase in demand which reached its peak in March when we distributed \$4,630. with 117 student visits.

The total amount distributed during 1997-98 reached an all-time high of \$23,825., with 539 student visits for the year. To understand how surprising this was for us, and how it strained our abilities, one need only look back to the statistics for the previous year. During 1996-97 we handed out \$13,210. in vouchers to 365 student visitors. That was itself a record breaking year.

From June to December 1997 the demand was largely on a par with last year, with moderate increases in each month. Beginning in January the stats hit and broke through the roof with monthly outlays as much as quadrupling. The average given per student visit also increased significantly, from \$36.19 in 1996-97 to \$44.20 this year. Many students were seriously affected by the ice storm and we found it necessary to increase the amounts given in many cases to deal with the losses they had experienced. As well, many of these students, on very tight budgets, got



themselves into financial holes from which they found it impossible to extricate themselves as a result of the ice storm, and because of other factors as well.

We are increasingly seeing students who are returning to school with no viable means of support, no plan in place, no guaranteed source of funding, and no expectation that one can be found. In some cases students in mid-program find themselves in this situation after having lost their means of support. These students are struggling to fulfill a dream under the most stressful of circumstances. In many cases they are single parents eager to find a way out of dependency and poverty; or international students with none of the traditional supports or avenues open to them.

The ice storm brought a whole new dimension to this situation beginning in January. As part of its response to the ice storm and its effect on students the University distributed to all students at Concordia a list of resources and special responses to this disaster. Among these was the availability of food vouchers through Campus Ministry. This served to bring this service to the attention of students specifically affected by the ice storm, but also to make the program much more widely known in general. As a result, demand shot up dramatically, and remained at a very high level through April.

Our normal fund raising could not possibly have met this demand, and, in fact, we find ourselves with a negative balance of \$3,175.15 at the end of the fiscal year: May 31<sup>st</sup> 1998. This is compared with a positive balance of \$9,207.30 at the same time last year which was carried forward into the new fiscal year.

Fund raising from our normal sources amounted to \$12,174.30 for the fiscal year. This is on par with recent years, but will obviously have to increase if we are to maintain this program. We have been promised a grant from the Ice Storm Emergency Fund set up by the Board of Governors, and we are awaiting the transfer of a large donation from one of our alumni supporters. These together should put us back into a more comfortable position leading up to our fund raising in the fall.

We have also begun discussions to explore the possibility of having regular donations received through Annual Giving. This would serve to regularize a funding base, and would allow us to continue with the internal fund raising events during our Spirit of Christmas fund raising period.

We expect the demand to trail off somewhat during the coming year, but it will almost certainly remain high for the foreseeable future.

The Mother Hubbard's Cupboard program is also partially funded through our Spirit of Christmas Fund. This support amounted to \$676.75 during the fiscal year: \$306.75 in equipment purchases, and \$370. in voucher support for the meals.

### *Mother Hubbard's Cupboard*

This program, coordinated by Daryl Ross, implemented through the efforts of Peer Helpers and other student volunteers, serves weekly meals to students at Annex Z for a donation of \$1.00. Costs were subsidized by the Emergency Food Voucher Fund. The meals were prepared at the



Loyola Campus Ministry office by student volunteers, the preparation was supervised and meals were transported by Daryl Ross. About fifty to eighty students were served each week, from mid-September to late April, with the attendance peaking for a few weeks at ninety to one hundred. The meals were vegetarian, and inexpensive to prepare. Students were given copies of the recipes, so they could learn new skills in preparing nutritious meals on a small budget. The atmosphere at "Mother Hubbard's" was warm and friendly; many of the students who came were from out of province or from other countries, and came to meet people as well as enjoy a meal. The feedback from students who participated was extremely positive, and many came because of word-of-mouth publicity; that is a sure sign that a program is responding to the real needs of students.

As we have planned for the past two years, we expanded Mother Hubbard's by creating a cooperative cooking group. We were mentored in this program by some volunteers from the Unitarian Church of Montreal. We were also permitted to use their excellent new kitchen facilities for the cooking. This pilot project group of 6 to 8 students met three times over the year to cook together. Scheduling the cooking is the major problem with students' diverse schedules. This is a project that will be expanded in the coming year.

#### *Metropolitan Montreal Student Food Bank*

Matti Terho has been working with other students and Chaplains from several universities to establish a city-wide student food bank, and has found it a somewhat frustrating project. It seemed to get started reasonably well with active participation by both the Concordia Graduate Student Association President and one of the Vice Presidents of the Concordia Student Union. However, it seemed that both got so completely wrapped up in their political and social activities that they were unable to dedicate any energy or time to this project. The food bank did get solid support at Hautes Etudes Commerciales (and some space for an outlet) and the media showed some interest with articles and interviews. But for committee work, very few people were able to attend meetings with any kind of regularity. With the new CSU president apparently strongly in favor of the MMSFB we hope that the coming year will see a better functioning organization.

#### *Pastoral Counselling and Spiritual Direction*

Concordia provides an excellent network of services, and therefore students have choices about the means to find guidance and support when they feel a need to seek it. Short-term pastoral counselling and spiritual direction offered by chaplains have helped many students to respond to life choices and emotional issues constructively and with integrity. The chaplains provide spiritual guidance and development to other members of the University community as well. Chaplains also provide many referrals to other university services. As was mentioned previously, this year the percentage of time spent by Chaplains doing pastoral counselling increased roughly 25% as one of the effects of the ice storm.

*Gatherings for celebration, commemoration and worship*

Chaplains were involved in preparing for and presiding at ceremonies such as convocations, weddings, anniversaries, funeral/memorial services. Many people turn to religious leaders when they are looking for meaningful ways to mark significant passages in life. Sacramental celebrations such as weddings and baptisms necessarily involve one of the ordained chaplains. Twenty-seven members of the Concordia community had children baptized in the Chapel this year. Other gatherings such as memorial services are also led by the lay chaplains. Most notably this year, the sad occasion of the funeral for Nancy Torbit, former Director of Concordia Health Services, brought several hundred persons in attendance from all parts of the University.

Matti Terho, the Coordinator for the Institutional Response to Student Deaths had to deal with ten deaths of students or former students, of which two demanded considerable effort. One of these involved pastoral counselling and preparation of both the funeral itself and a Memorial Service for the community in the Chapel. The other one required grief therapy and counselling, because of the complexity of the situation.

*Marriage preparation*

As usual, there have been requests from members of the Concordia community, students and former students, to have their weddings in the chapel. David Eley and Matti Terho are principally occupied with these important events in the lives of the students. There are usually seven to ten meetings to prepare for these occasions. One can observe that the attachment created to the University through this activity is significant and probably life long. Twenty-two weddings were celebrated in the Loyola Chapel this year and several more were held at various locations off campus. With few exceptions, all marriages witnessed by Concordia Chaplains involve members of the Concordia University Community.

*Loyola Chapel*

The Loyola Chapel continues to be used for a variety of religious ceremonies and prayers. There are regular Sunday Catholic services, known throughout the diocese for creativity and openness, and also weekday masses. Occasional services from diverse denominations take place on an ad-hoc basis. Many weddings of members of the Concordia community, and alumni are celebrated there as well as a number of memorial services for the dead. It is also the venue for group meditation, and for a number of meetings, public lectures, recitals and concerts. The chapel is used principally for events of religious significance for the Concordia community but is also used from time to time for other University occasions.

Services are attended 52 Sundays of the year by, on average, 100 people. The special feasts of Christmas and Holy Week draw considerably larger attendance. During the week, five days a week for the academic year and two days a week for most of the summer, about 15-20 people come regularly to mass. Throughout the year the number of people at the occasional activities would be 150 - 300 at a wedding or a memorial service, diverse numbers for other gatherings.

Although Campus Ministry stresses the importance of maintaining the Chapel as sacred space, throughout the year it is used by individual students and student groups in response to special needs. Such occasions during the past year included several evenings of rehearsal by the University Choir under the direction of Elizabeth Haughey, several individual student projects by students in Visual Dynamics (photo studies or projects) and Film Making.

Outside groups have also used the Chapel on occasion for musical recording or filming sessions. Two such musical recordings occurred during the 1997-98 year. With rare exceptions the requesting person is usually an alum.

### *Chapel Council*

There is an elected council of about twelve members which takes responsibility for the activities of the Loyola Chapel Community. Three of the chaplains, Daryl, David and Peter and the sacristan are ex officio members; the secretary is serving a term as an elected member. The council organizes a number of activities for the University such as an International Students Lunch, as a welcome to International Students. The finances of the Chapel and special projects are also the concern of this body. A series of regular meetings is held for these purposes.

### *Involvement in Orientation and Convocation*

Orientation: Chaplains presided at the beginning of each Orientation main session with greetings and a ritual opening. This served to give us a certain amount of exposure to every student attending Orientation, not just a small group in a workshop. It is somewhat similar in nature to our role at Convocation and so highlights that important ceremonial aspect of our work. Over the four days of Orientation approximately 2000 students would have seen and heard us.

Convocation: The Convocation ceremonies are the central ritual event of the University. The role of the Chaplains in these ceremonies dates back to the beginnings of each of the founding institutions of Concordia. We bless each event at the beginning with an Invocation, and at the end with a Benediction. We are careful in our prayer to be inclusive and respectful of the variety of religious beliefs present at Concordia. Our presence at Convocation in this capacity is very valued by us. We believe in the importance and rightness of this spiritual dimension being included at this very significant point in the life of the University. We know that many students appreciate it, and are grateful for the opening invocation and the blessings given as the ceremony concludes. Each year several students request copies of the prayers which were said at their Convocation because they found it particularly moving and meaningful. In terms of our visibility and stature as a department which is integral to the University, the role we play in the Convocation ceremonies cannot be underestimated. It is one we cherish and want to affirm.

### PUBLICATIONS

We published two volumes of a newsletter which we called "First Word." Our intention had been to include these in mailings of the "Bridge," the newsletter to new students. This proved to not be possible, so we distributed them by including them in issues of The Link, and through



Student Services and other means. We feel the effort and expense of producing a newsletter is time and money well-spent. Many students and staff and faculty were reached, and we received considerable positive feedback, as well as inquiries on topics which we had discussed in the newsletters. Last year we received some financial support for this project from the Office for New Student Programs. We understand they will not be funding such projects next year, so we will have to consider this in our decisions of format and number of issues.

## THE PEER HELPER PROGRAM

### Overview

This past year was an excellent one for Peer Helpers. The student volunteers worked very well together, the number of students who made use of the basic drop-in service as well as the various outreaches increased, everyone who entered the training completed the entire year commitment, some new initiatives were begun successfully and other initiatives have provided a good base of experience to do it better next year. This was the Peer Helper Program's seventh full year of operation. The program has become known and trusted among professional staff, and it appears more referrals are coming from student services to Peer Helpers than in earlier years.

### Training

A Faculty member provided the majority of the training in helping skills, and various professional staff members animated workshops on topics such as time management, dealing with a crisis, poverty, sexuality, cross-cultural awareness, as well as providing information on the resources available to students at Concordia and in the larger community. The initial training at the beginning of the fall semester is over forty-five hours, with ongoing meetings every second Friday for discussion, feedback and additional training sessions.

Each Peer Helper has a mid-year evaluation meeting with the coordinator and one supervisor. This provides a structured opportunity for mutual exchange on the performance of the Peer Helper as well as his/her perceptions of the program. Peer Helpers give anonymous feedback on the performance of the coordinator and supervisors.

### Coordinating Team

The Coordinating Team consists of the coordinator and four second-year Peer Helpers, or supervisors. This supervisors this year were very competent and responsible.

The Director of Advocacy and Support Services continues to be a resource, support, and a creative guide in the development of the program. Scheduled meetings, as well as unscheduled conversations serve to provide the Coordinator with very helpful feedback and perspective. Other professional staff from Counselling and Development, Health Services and the International Student Advisors' Office, as well as others, have been consulted during the year.



## **Operations**

The Peer Helper Centre is located at 2090 Mackay (Annex Z) room 02. The front window looks almost directly across at the Mackay Street entrance to the Hall Building. We feel this is an ideal location, because of its proximity to the most heavily utilized building, while being very slightly more private than if it were right on the beaten path. The accessibility of the Campus Ministry professional staff to Peer Helpers, as well as the reception Peer Helpers provide in the building if a Chaplain is not available have been very positive aspects of situating these services together.

The Centre continues to be open on Monday to Thursday, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. During the exam period the Centre is open once or twice a week, depending upon the availability of the Peer Helpers. A campus outreach table to provide information and referrals is booked through the Dean of Students Office, and is situated in the lobby of the Hall Building. These are scheduled once or twice a week, for four or five hours, depending on the availability of the tables and of Peer Helpers to staff them on those days.

Although the Centre was closed during the ice storm, we still managed to have 560 office hours, with 231 client contacts. Almost as many briefer contacts were made at the Campus Outreach Table. Following the ice storm, Peer Helpers participated in the dissemination of information about services available to help students through the crisis.

## **Outreach Programs**

### *Developments*

**Men of the Nineties:** After visiting the Women's Centre on a tour during the training, two men spoke to me of the need they saw for men to have a place where they could share the issues and struggles in their lives. They carefully developed a rationale and goals, and the publicity, consulting with one of the faculty members from Applied Human Sciences. The group began in the late fall, and was small, about six regular participants, but very committed. The group continued to meet during the summer, and both men who facilitated the group are enthused about continuing the project next year.

**Cooperative Cooking:** After two years of attempting to get this started, in collaboration with The Unitarian Church of Montreal, a small group met for collective cooking in the very well-equipped kitchen of the Unitarian Church three times during the year. The feedback from the six to eight students involved was enthusiastically positive, but it was a very labour intensive project for Daryl, who was involved as Coordinator of the Peer Helper Program and supervisor of the Mother Hubbard's Cupboard project. A student who worked very diligently as a volunteer for Mother Hubbard's last year will be involved again as a Peer Helper this year, and will have gained experience forming cooperative cooking groups for the Centre for Native Education during the summer. We hope this project will grow based on these foundations.

**Peer Connections:** In cooperation with The Coordinator for New Student Programs, an effort was made to contact every new student by phone, beginning with those who did not attend Orientation. The project got bogged down in the beginning because it had been seen as important

to do some clerical processes which took quite a bit of time to complete. By the time these were done, some Peer Helpers were discouraged about the project. The series of questions which they were required to ask also made them feel the conversations were rather awkward. Nonetheless, they contacted over one thousand new students by phone. The problems encountered this year have been addressed in planning the project for next year. The process has been streamlined, and all the calls will be made in the late afternoon and early evening, by Peer Helpers who have opted to be involved in this outreach. New Student Programs will pay an hourly wage for this activity.

**Outreach in the Women's Centre:** One Peer Helper performed some of her weekly hours in the Women's Centre this year. We had tried this in order to provide a volunteer who was well-trained and who would be a good resource at the Centre. Unfortunately, the placement was not a "good fit," and the Peer Helper did not have the confidence to raise her difficulties with anyone at the Women's Centre or at Peer Helpers. The problems were addressed somewhat during the second semester. We have not decided if this outreach will continue. An evaluation meeting will be held during the summer.

**Tutoring Learning Disabled Students:** Two Peer Helpers worked with Services for Disabled Students to provide tutoring services to students with learning disabilities. One of the Peer Helpers worked with four students, and gave appropriate assistance and referrals. The other had a problem with the students he was supposed to be working with not keeping some of their appointments. Both Peer Helpers felt that more training focussing on how to assist learning disabled students would have been helpful to have before they began tutoring. This project will continue, and an evaluation meeting will take place during the summer.

### *Ongoing Projects*

**Gay and Bisexual Men's Discussion Group:** This group is in its fifth year, and this past year was a very good one. There was a committed core group of about ten men, with the numbers sometimes going up to fifteen or more. A former student who has been involved for three years, and a Peer Helper facilitated. The corresponding women's group has been taken over by the Women's Centre.

**Mother Hubbard's Cupboard:** Two Peer Helpers were involved in this project, and, as mentioned in the section on Services in Campus Ministry, this was a very successful year. A high proportion of Fine Arts and International Students came to the meals, which made for a very interesting and colourful environment.

## OTHER CAMPUS MINISTRY ACTIVITIES

### **Professional Development**

Campus Ministry works within a professional environment, within standards set by the National Association, which groups Campus Ministers from all Canadian Universities by the National Offices of the Churches and inter-church and inter-faith committees, as well as being in close

connection with our counterparts in the United States. Further, there are a series of professional organizations with their conventions and regular publications. Concordia chaplains attend some of these meetings every year and make a regular and on-going part of their study and reflection the integration of the latest concerns, findings and practices into the work of Campus Ministry at Concordia University. Some of the time of our planning days and regular weekly meetings are dedicated to this learning and professional updating.

Throughout the year on a regular basis the whole Campus Ministry staff gathers for full day or half day team meetings. These times are used for a variety of forms of development. Some of the time is spent on evaluation and subsequent planning of activities. Attention is also given to a number of professional issues including articulating objectives and creating a mechanism for determining priorities. This is a necessary part of our work when we can deal with issues and cases that are brought to our attention through various avenues, including the National Association, some of our Church affiliations, and community organizations.

#### COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENTS CONFERENCES AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Micheline Bertone SSA: Diocesan Youth Council, the Montreal Association for Vocation Awareness, the Synod Spiritual Life Committee, Relais Mont Royal, sits on a committee for the animation of parish prayer groups, resident worker at Le Toit de Bethlehem, pastoral counsellor at the Montreal Pastoral Institute.

Peter Côté: Past President of the Board of Directors of the Catholic Community Services of Montreal, CUPEU Council member, attended National Chaplains' Conference in Halifax

David Eley: On the board of the Adult Religious Education Office for the Catholic Archdiocese of Montreal, participates in the monthly directors' meetings and on several sub-committees organizing specific events. Attended national Chaplains' Conference in Halifax, Call to Action Conference

Daryl Ross: Founding member of the N.D.G. Inter-Church Network for Justice, CUPEU Executive Committee, attended National Catholic Chaplain's Conference in Halifax, Call To Action Conference, Montreal Catholic Archdiocesan Synod - small group facilitator on Women in the Church

Matti Terho: Chair of the Christian-Jewish Dialogue in Montreal, secretary of the Lutheran Council in Montreal, member of the Board of Directors for the Canadian-Scandinavian Foundation, volunteer Christian Chaplain for traditional parade of World War II veterans in Cote St.Luc, temporary chair of the Canadian Sauna Society, co-sponsor for the Institute on Judaism at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Shalom, made a formal presentation titled "Jesus & Judaism" at McGill Chaplaincy, participated in a two day project to celebrate the Day to Combat Racism and Prejudice in Washington, DC



## CONCLUSION

The goals which we set for ourselves in the beginning of the year were largely adhered to and fulfilled. All of the staff at Campus Ministry put in an especially intensive year of work because of the new projects and programs, and because of the response to the ice storm.

We ended the year with a real sense of satisfaction in the work we have accomplished, with a vision to build on these accomplishments. We also have concerns about coping with change, both within Campus Ministry and in the University as a whole. The changes which the entire University Community has been experiencing continues on, without abate. Some new developments, such as the Revitalization of Loyola, give hope that not all change involves loss.

As we affirmed in last year's report, we believe it is essential that we, along with many others, affirm the values and qualities that make Concordia a unique and admirable academic community. The innate worth of each person, learning which is rooted in a sense of wonder and curiosity, openness to the diversity of human experience and expression, support for weaker and more vulnerable members, are all values out of which Concordia University has grown. Campus Ministry will continue to creatively respond to the spiritual and practical needs of community members, and add our vision and voice to those who seek to build Concordia on the best of what it has come from and has become. Within that future, we believe, faith, spirituality and ethical and moral development have an essential role. We look forward to this coming year with hope and enthusiasm.



## APPENDIX A

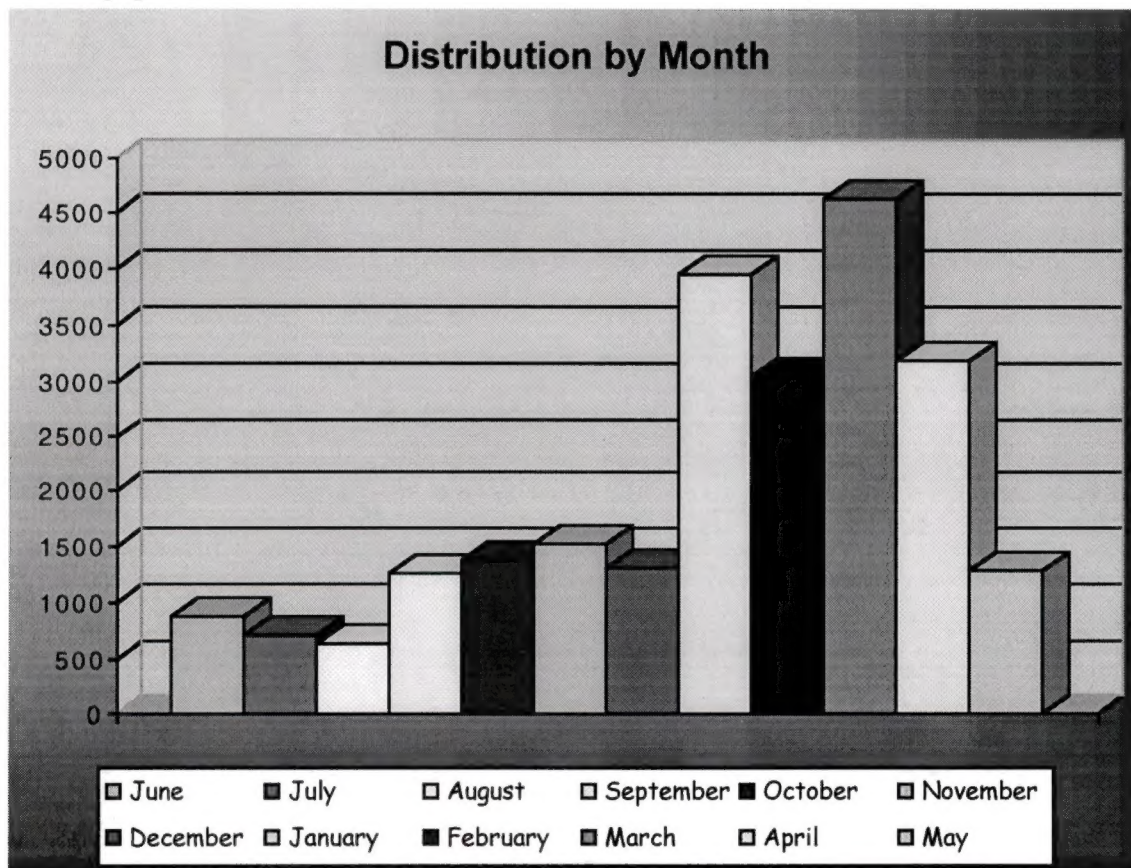
### EMERGENCY FOOD VOUCHER PROGRAMME

#### FOOD VOUCHER DISBURSEMENTS

|      | <u>MONTH</u>          | <u>AMOUNT</u>           | <u>Number of Visits</u> |
|------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1997 | June                  | 885.00                  | 19                      |
|      | July                  | 720.00                  | 16                      |
|      | August                | 640.00                  | 17                      |
|      | September             | 1,260.00                | 33                      |
|      | October               | 1,375.00                | 31                      |
|      | November              | 1,530.00                | 41                      |
|      | December              | 1,305.00                | 32                      |
| 1998 | January               | 3,965.00                | 76                      |
|      | February              | 3,045.00                | 70                      |
|      | March                 | 4,630.00                | 117                     |
|      | April                 | 3,180.00                | 61                      |
|      | May                   | 1,290.00                | 26                      |
|      | <b>TOTAL VOUCHERS</b> | <b><u>23,825.00</u></b> |                         |
|      | <i>Total visits</i>   |                         | <u>539</u>              |

*Average per visit*

**44.20**

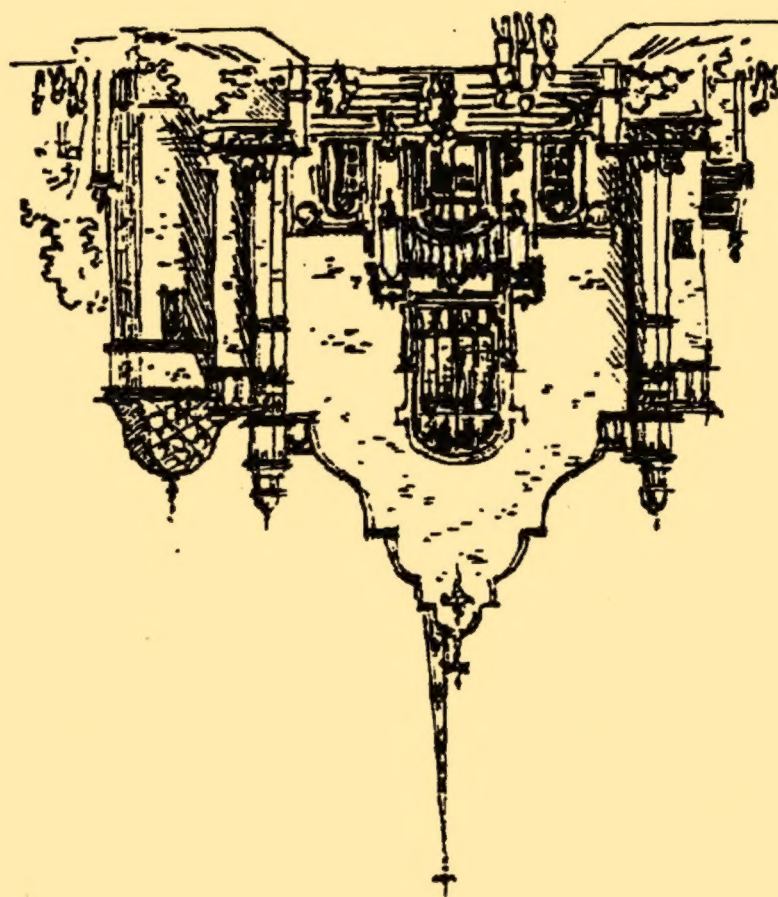


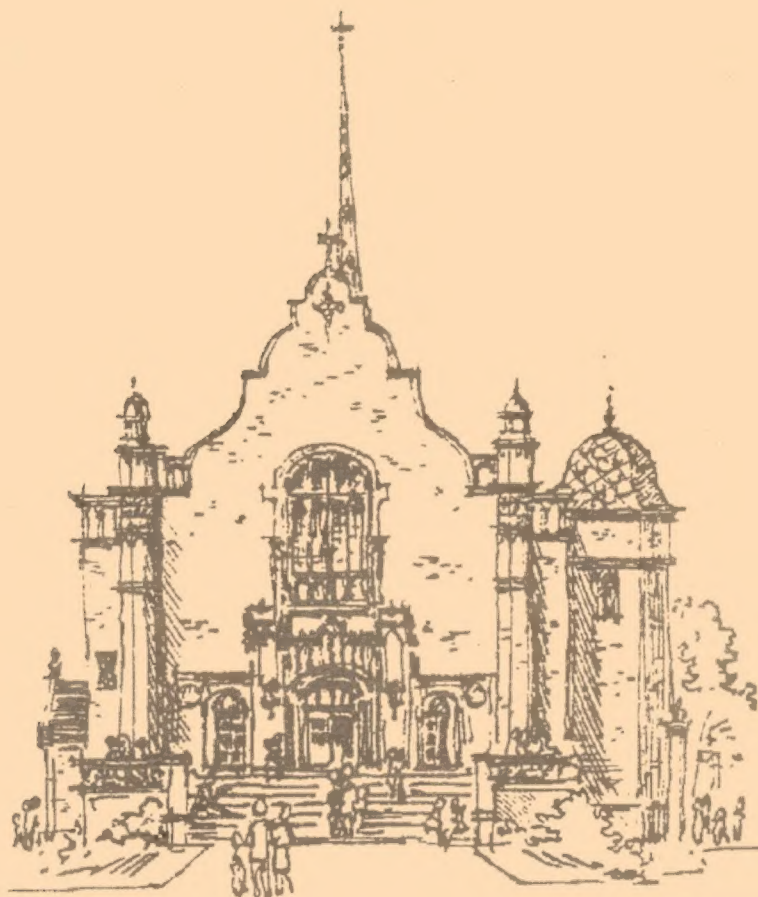
## Support for Mother Hubbard's Cupboard

### Monday Night Meals

(FROM THE EFV PROGRAMME)

|                           |                      |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| EQUIPMENT PURCHASES:      | 306.75               |
| VOUCHER SUPPORT FOR MEALS | <u>370.00</u>        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>              | <b><u>676.75</u></b> |





CONCORDIA MULT-FAITH CHAPLAINCY is a unit of *Advocacy and Support Services*, **Student Services**